

Preventing Meningitis and Bloodstream Infections



Bacterial meningitis and bloodstream infections are serious, life-threatening illnesses. Babies, young children, adolescents, and older adults are at increased risk of some of these types of infections.

Symptoms of meningitis and bloodstream infections can include:

In babies symptoms might include:



Fever



Sleepiness



Confusion



Fever



Vomiting



Headache



Joint pain and aching muscles



Stiff neck



Being more fussy or irritable than usual



Being drowsy, less alert, or difficult to wake up



Rash that looks like purple bruising or bleeding under the skin.



Sensitivity to light



Nausea or Vomiting



Poor feeding

People with meningitis or bloodstream infections can become very sick quickly and can die if they do not receive treatment in a timely manner. It is important to seek medical care right away if you or your child shows signs or symptoms of meningitis or a bloodstream infection.

Three vaccines protect against bacteria that are common causes of meningitis and bloodstream infections:

- 1 Hib vaccine (recommended for babies and young children)
- 2 Pneumococcal vaccine (recommended for babies, young children, and older adults)
- 3 Meningococcal vaccine (recommended for adolescents)

If you have questions or would like your children to receive these vaccines, contact your health-care provider or your local health department. More information is available at health.in.gov.