

Welcome to Meningitis.com

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What is meningitis? Can I protect myself and my loved ones? How is meningitis spread? Whatever the question, we want to help all we can. That's why we've included detailed information and videos to help you make sense of this serious, unpredictable disease.

**Because what you know—
can make a world of difference.**



Do you know...

Who is most at risk for bacterial meningitis?

 [Find out](#)

Concerned about your child?

Think your child may have meningitis?
Learn the [symptoms](#)

Going to college or camp?

Find out how to best [protect yourself](#)

Traveling abroad?

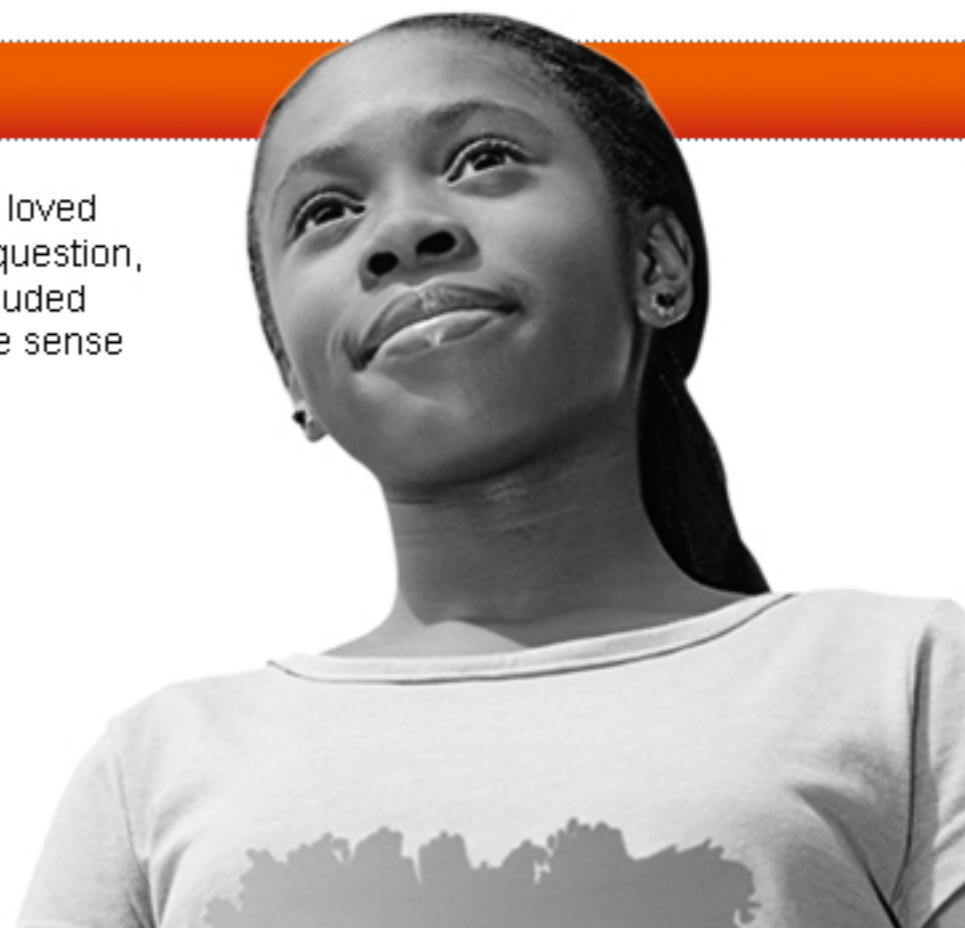
Before you go, find out what you [need to know](#)

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Could my symptoms be bacterial meningitis?

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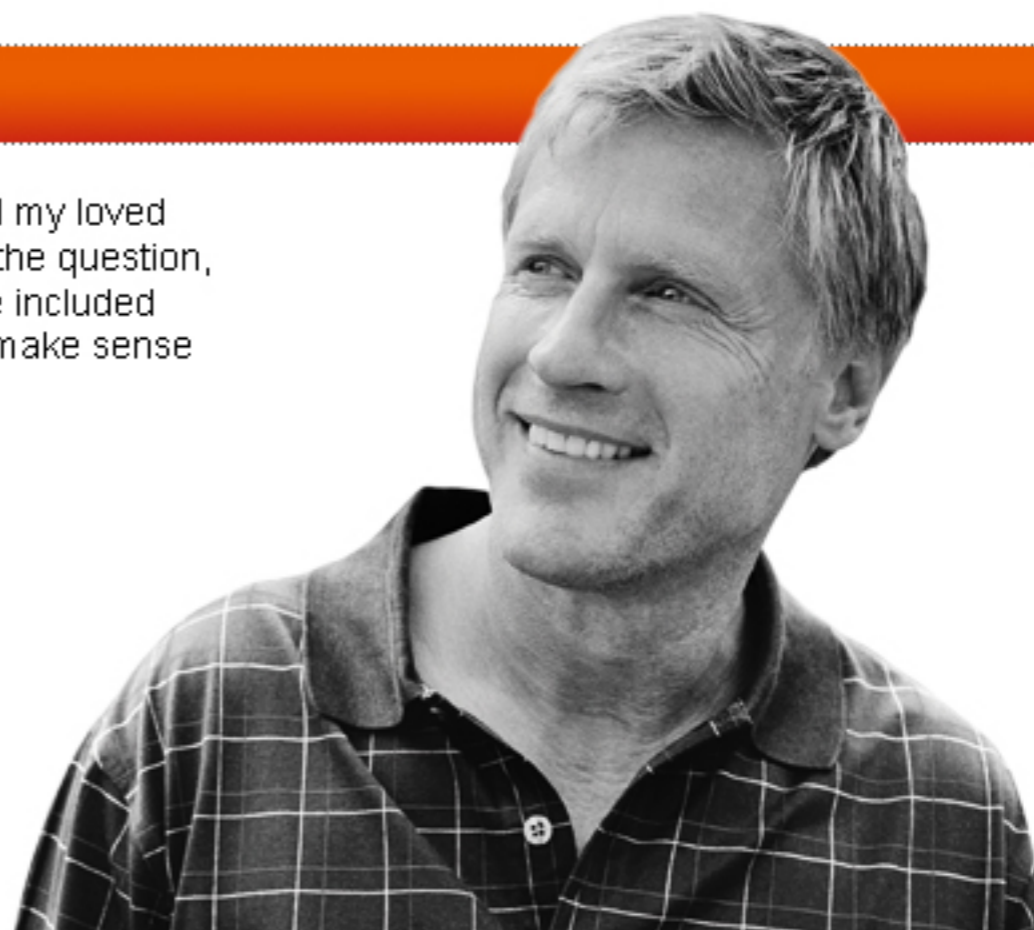
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Who should get vaccinated against the disease?

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Meningitis: Knowledge is power

The cause is key

Meningitis always begins its harmful journey as an infection. The 3 types of infections that can cause meningitis are:

- **Bacteria** can lead to bacterial meningitis, a rare infection that is serious (and can cause death or disability)
- **Viruses** can lead to viral meningitis, a common infection that is rarely serious
- **Fungi** can lead to fungal meningitis, only affecting people with a weak immune system

Understanding the causes of meningitis is crucial in determining treatment—and prevention.



Delve into this section to learn about:

- [Bacterial meningitis](#)
- [Viral and fungal meningitis](#)
- [The history of meningitis](#)



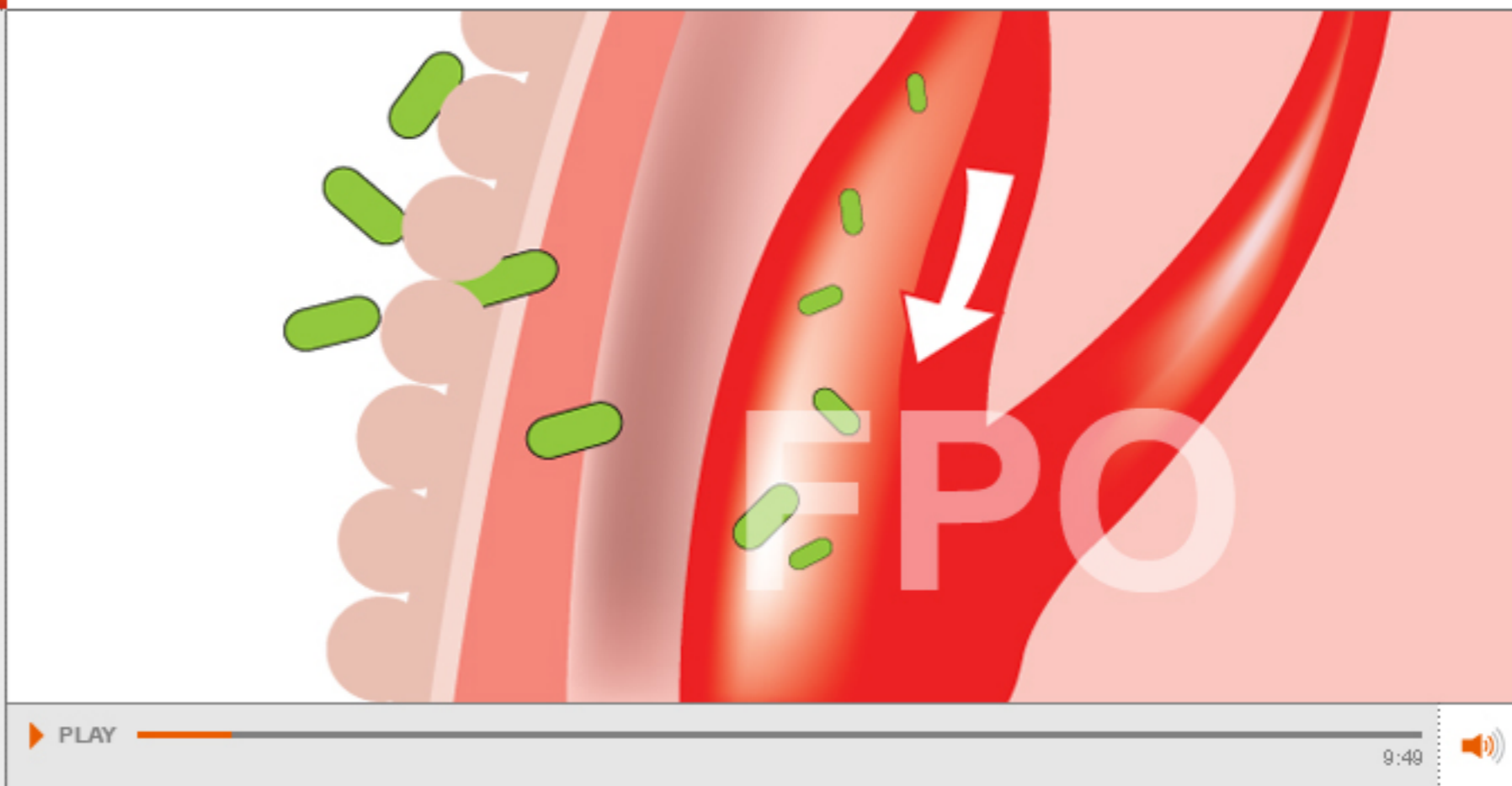
See bacterial meningitis make its move

[Click to play video](#)



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Symptoms

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Meningitis: When symptoms strike

At first, symptoms for bacterial meningitis are hard to diagnose. This is because it can resemble other infections, such as the flu or a cold.

In this section, you'll learn about:

- [Symptoms to look for in infants](#)
- [Symptoms to look for in children, teens, and adults](#)
- [What else could it be?](#)
- [Treatment for bacterial meningitis](#)
- [Consequences of bacterial meningitis](#)



Bacterial meningitis symptoms: Infants

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Infants can't tell you how they feel. So you need to watch them closely. After all, their symptoms may be a cry for help. Here are some signs that an infant may have bacterial meningitis:



Has a fever – which may come on slowly



Is sluggish or more active than normal



Won't drink breast milk or formula



Has swelling on the soft spot of the head

Be aware that these symptoms can resemble other diseases. See [What else could it be?](#)

Preventing Meningitis

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 - Vaccines: Fact vs. Fiction
 - What else you can do
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Vaccination: The best protection from infection

Meningitis can have serious consequences. Thankfully, a healthy dose of information now can go far. Because you have more control than you may know.

In this section, you'll learn about:

- [Vaccination](#)
- [Vaccines to Prevent Meningitis](#)
- [Vaccines: Fact vs. Fiction](#)
- [What else you can do](#)
- [What's on the horizon](#)



Meningitis vaccines: What's on the horizon?

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The future is bright when it comes to vaccines that help protect against bacterial meningitis.

The situation today...

Currently, there are no approved vaccines in the United States to protect children under age 2 from bacterial strains (serogroups) A, C, Y, and W-135. This is despite the fact that infants are at increased risk of bacterial meningitis. Plus, there's no vaccine available that targets serogroup B—which is also a major cause of bacterial meningitis.

What the future holds...

There is good news. Vaccines are in development that will protect against more serogroups—as well as more age groups. That means you can expect:

- New vaccines that protect against serogroups A, C, Y, and W-135
 - Some will be used for infants as young as 2 months old
- New vaccines against serogroup B

