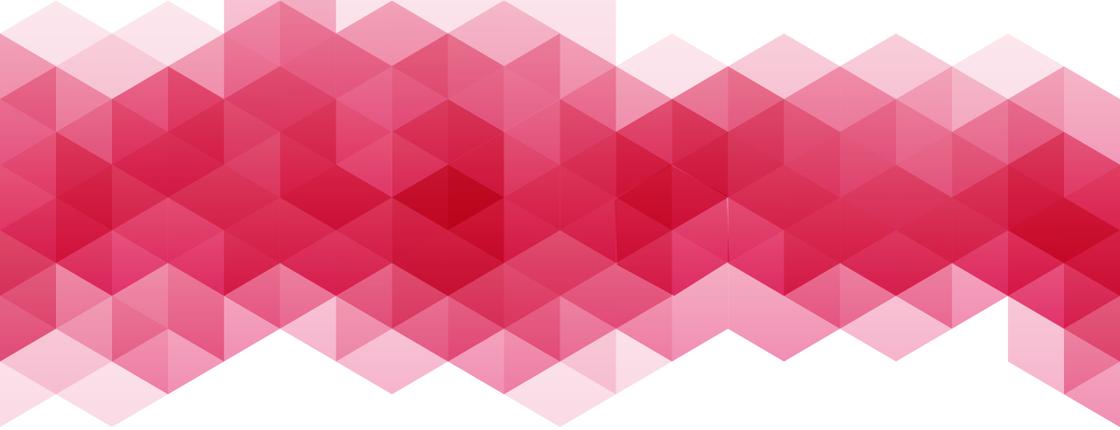




# Meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia

The 5 good reasons to get vaccinated

**Vaccination of 15–24 year olds**

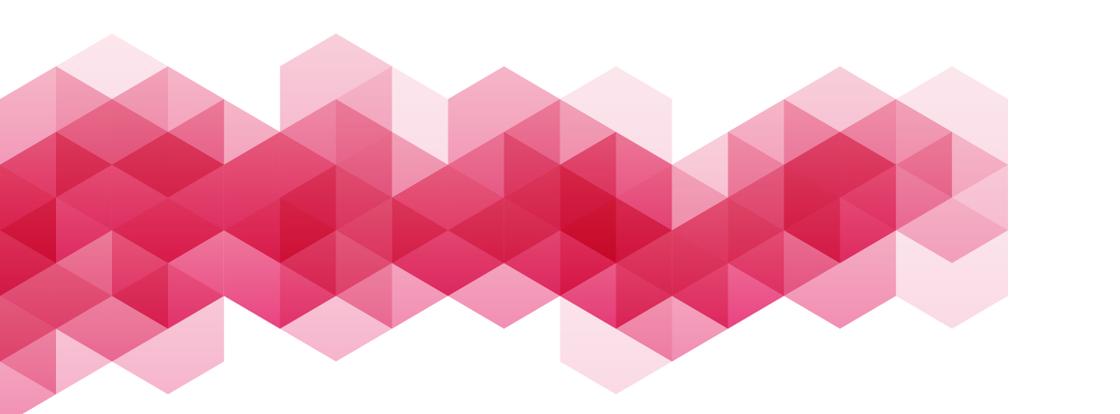


**A significant increase in cases of invasive meningococcal disease (meningitis and septicaemia) has been observed since 2022, in particular linked to meningococci of types W and Y. Given the potential severity of these infections, a catch-up vaccination is recommended for all people aged between 15 and 24 years, in addition to vaccination of adolescents aged 11 to 14 years.**

—◆—  
In France, approximately 500 to 600 people are affected each year by invasive meningococcal disease.

### **What is an invasive meningococcal disease?**

- It is a very serious disease such as meningitis or septicaemia that can be fatal or leave significant sequelae (deafness, intellectual disability, amputation of a limb, etc.)
- It is caused by bacteria called meningococci, several types of which exist: A, B, C, W and Y. In France, the most common meningococci are types B, W and Y.
- Meningococci are bacteria normally present in the throat and nose of many people. These bacteria can be transmitted through close, prolonged or repeated contact with an infected person.
- Meningococci of types W or Y on the one hand, and meningococci of type B on the other hand, are each responsible for approximately half of cases of invasive meningococcal disease.
- Adolescents and young adults as well as infants are particularly affected.

- 
- Meningococcal A, C, W, Y and meningococcal B vaccines are available.
  - They are safe and effective in children and adults.

## Who is the vaccination for?

Meningococcal type A, C, W, Y vaccination is recommended for all adolescents between 11 and 14 years of age and for catch-up between 15 and 24 years of age. This can be done regardless of the meningococcal vaccines received before and the time since the last dose. Vaccination against meningococcal type B is possible for individuals aged 15 to 24 years.

## Which vaccines are available?

Three vaccines protecting against types A, C, W, Y can be used between 11 and 24 years of age: Nimenrix<sup>®</sup>, Menquadfi<sup>®</sup> and Menveo<sup>®</sup> vaccines. Bexsero<sup>®</sup> and Trumemba<sup>®</sup> vaccines, which protect against meningococcal type B, can be offered between 15 and 24 years of age.

## Possible side effects

- These vaccines can cause a reaction at the injection site (pain, redness, slight swelling) and general effects such as fever, irritability or headache. These effects are harmless and temporary.
- As with all vaccines, serious allergic reactions are very rare.

## Is the vaccine reimbursed?

Meningococcal type A, C, W, Y vaccines are covered at 65% by the French health insurance scheme between the ages of 11 and 24. Those against meningococcal type B are covered between 15 and 24 years of age. The supplement is reimbursed by the mutual insurance companies. They are free of charge for beneficiaries of the CSS or the AME.

—◆—  
Vaccination is provided by general practitioners, paediatricians, midwives, nurses, pharmacists or vaccination centres.

Have a question?  
Need advice?  
Talk to a  
healthcare  
professional.

## Effective vaccines

Data from countries that vaccinate against invasive meningococcal disease types A, C, W, Y or type B confirm the high efficacy of these vaccines.

## Vaccines needed

They protect against meningitis and septicaemia caused by meningococci and help prevent complications that can be serious.

By preventing people from becoming infected and from transmitting the infection to others, vaccination against types A, C, W, Y protects not only the person vaccinated but also those around them.

## Simple vaccines

A single injection (for meningococcal A, C, W, Y vaccines) or two injections (for meningococcal B vaccine) provide protection for several years. These vaccines can be administered at the same time as other adolescent vaccines (dTaP/IPV and HPV booster).

## Safe vaccines

Reactions are uncommon and not serious.

## Reimbursed vaccines

The French National Health Insurance Fund and the mutual insurance companies reimburse these vaccines.

