

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Indiana law requires each year that parents are informed about meningococcal disease (meningitis) and its vaccine (IC-20-30-5-18).

Meningococcal disease is a dangerous disease that can strike children and youth. The disease can progress rapidly and within hours of the first symptoms may result in death or permanent disability including loss of hearing, brain damage, and limb amputations.

Symptoms of meningococcal disease often resemble the flu and can include a fever, headache, nausea, and stiff neck, making the disease difficult to diagnose. The bacteria that cause meningococcal diseases are transmitted through air droplets and by direct contact with an infected person. Fortunately there is an immunization available and is now a requirement for all students entering 6th grade and a booster before entering 12th grade.

Please talk with your child's health care provider if you have questions about meningococcal disease and vaccination.