

Meningococcal meningitis

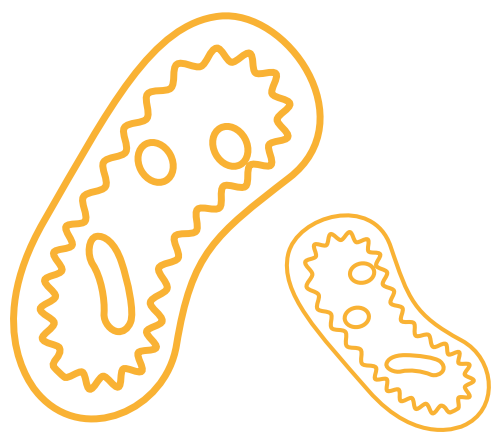
Information for school children

Source of infection

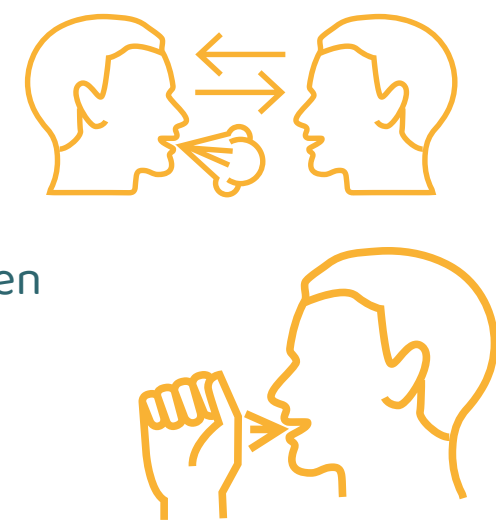
Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis. It is a serious infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. It can cause severe brain damage and is fatal in 50% of cases if untreated. It can also cause wide-scale epidemics.



Types of exposure & prevention



Meningitis spreads from one person to another by droplets from the nose and mouth when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. It can affect anyone of any age, but mainly affects babies, preschool children and young people.



Prevent it by:



Getting vaccinated, especially if meningitis cases are reported in your neighbourhood or school



Wearing masks to avoid respiratory transmission



Children with symptoms must be isolated. Monitor who may have come into contact with symptomatic children.

Symptoms

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, stop going to school and see a doctor as it could be bacterial



Stiff neck



High fever



Sensitivity to light



Confusion



Headaches



Vomiting

Actions to take in case of symptoms:



Seek medical advice without delay. Isolate children with symptoms. Early treatment is important.



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean