

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

What is meningitis?

An infection caused by a bacteria which involves the tissue around the brain and spinal cord.

How is meningitis spread?

Airborne droplets from the nose or throat of people with the bacteria.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- High fever, headache, and stiff neck in anyone over 2 years of age.
- Nausea, vomiting, bright lights hurt the eyes, confusion, and sleepiness.
- Newborns and infants may be slow or inactive, irritable, vomiting and refuse to eat.
- Seizures

How is meningitis diagnosed?

By a laboratory test of the spinal fluid.

What is the treatment for meningitis?

Antibiotics.

Prevention:

There are vaccines to help prevent some types of bacterial meningitis. Contact your local health department for more information.

For more information on meningitis visit:

Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000680.htm