

Know the Signs

For More
Information...

MENINGITIS

SEVERE
HEADACHE

RASH

STIFF NECK

NAUSEA

VOMITING

LETHARGY

SENSITIVITY
TO LIGHT

HIGH FEVER

Vaccinations are available at
Health Service.
Call 581-ASAP
for an appointment!

If you are experiencing any
of these symptoms,
please seek medical attention
immediately!

Call Health Service at
581-2727

-or-

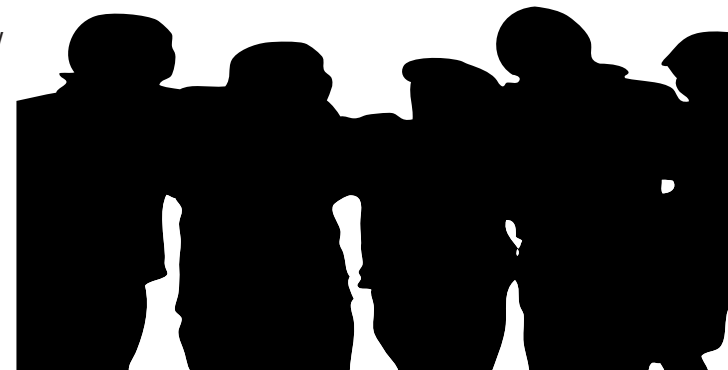
visit these sites:

www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html

<http://www.meningitis.org>

[http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/meningitis/
DS00118](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/meningitis/DS00118)

Know the
signs,
save a life



Get the facts!

Reference:
American College Health Association
www.acha.org/meningitis

Health Service 
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

What is Meningitis?

Meningitis and You

Meningitis can occur in two forms: as meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation that affects the brain and spinal cord, or as meningococemia, the presence of bacteria in the blood.

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

Bacterial Meningitis is rare but very serious and requires immediate treatment with antibiotics. It can occur at any time of the year.

Meningococcal meningitis is a form of bacterial meningitis and can be fatal if left untreated.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

Meningitis can cause permanent brain damage, hearing loss, learning disability, limb amputation, kidney failure, and even death.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

Meningitis is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Meningitis strikes between 1,400 and 3,000 Americans each year and is responsible for approximately 150-300 deaths
- Between 100 and 125 cases occur on college campuses every year
- 5 to 15 college students die each year as a result of meningitis

VACCINATION

- The vaccination for meningitis is safe and 85% to 100% effective in preventing infection
- The CDC recommends that everyone receives the vaccine between the ages of 11 and 18
- The vaccine has mild side effects, including redness and soreness at the injection site for up to two days.
- About a week after receiving the vaccination, immunity is developed
- Freshman who live in dorms are at higher risk for meningitis
- The American College Health Association recommends that college students, especially Freshman living in dorms, be vaccinated against meningitis

HOW CAN YOU GET IT?

Meningococcal bacteria are transmitted through direct contact with a person who already has the disease in their body.

Direct contact can occur by exposure to air droplets from the nose or throat of an already infected person.

You can also contract meningitis by sharing items such as cigarettes, drinking glasses, or kissing.

KEEP IN MIND

Since meningitis usually peaks in late winter and early fall, it is often confused with the flu.

Infection progresses quickly, so students should seek medical attention if two or more symptoms occur at the same time.

**If you did not
receive the vaccine
before arriving at EIU,
Health Service can help!
Call 581.2727**

