



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas**

Meningococcal Disease Prevention Starts With Vaccination




Contracting meningococcal disease can lead to devastating neurological outcomes. Most meningococcal disease is preventable with vaccination. **Talking with parents about the risks of meningococcal disease, discussing when to vaccinate and scheduling a vaccination appointment will decrease the likelihood of their child contracting the disease.** A high-quality recommendation by the provider and staff to vaccinate has been shown to produce a vaccination uptake of 73%.¹

Who should get vaccinated?

The early childhood meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY) vaccine helps protect against causes of meningococcal diseases. **The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a routine MenACWY for 11 and 12-year-olds with a booster dose at 16 years old.** This vaccine does not protect against Meningococcal Serogroup B (MenB).


The CDC recommends a vaccination for MenB for people 16-18 years old. About 60% of meningococcal disease cases in individuals younger than 25 years old are caused by MenB.² MenB infection can spread rapidly through the body and lead to death.


More Info

Reference the [BCBSTX Preventive Care Guidelines \(PCGs\)](#) , [Clinical Practice Guidelines \(CPGs\)](#)  and [THSteps for Medical Providers](#)  for more information on this and other important topics for treating your patients.

References

¹ Lori Anderson MD (2019, October), Tackling the Tough Topics: Outreach to Parents. Lecture conducted from the Texas Immunization Conference, United States.

² Center for Disease Control 2020. *Chapter 8: Meningococcal Disease* Retrieved June 5, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt08-mening.html> 

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