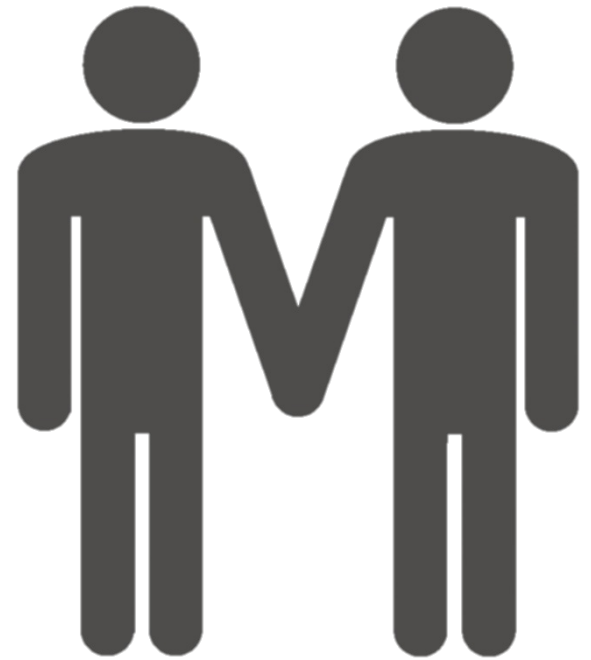


Meningitis (Meningococcal Disease) in Gay Men/Men who have Sex with Men Who should get the Vaccine?

Recent LA County data shows more cases than usual among gay men/men who have sex with men (MSM). This sheet describes the disease, who should get vaccinated, and where to get vaccinated.



1. What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a rare, but serious disease. It's caused by bacteria (germs). It can lead to serious problems, like:

- Meningitis (swelling in the brain and spinal cord)
- Loss of a limb (arm or leg)
- Deafness
- Brain damage
- Death

2. What are the symptoms of meningococcal disease?

It can start with influenza-like (flu-like) symptoms and may cause these, too:

- High Fever
- Headache
- Stiff Neck
- Rash
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Confusion

3. How can you prevent meningococcal disease?

These healthy habits help prevent infection:

- Vaccination is the best way to prevent this disease
- Don't share items that spread saliva, like utensils, food, drinks, or cigarettes
- Limit close contact with people who are sick

4. Who should get the meningococcal vaccine?

The LA County Department of Public Health recommends meningococcal vaccine for:

- Anyone who is HIV positive
- All gay men/MSM regardless of their HIV status or risk factors

5. How many doses of the vaccine should the listed Gay Men/MSM groups get?

Who should get it?	Number of doses
HIV-positive gay men/MSM who never got a meningococcal vaccine	2 doses of the vaccine (spread apart by 8 or more weeks)
HIV-positive gay men/MSM who got 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine as a child or teen	1 dose of the vaccine now
Gay men/MSM (regardless of their HIV status) who never got a meningococcal vaccine	1 dose of the vaccine now
Gay men/MSM (regardless of their HIV status) who got a dose 5 or more years ago	1 dose of the vaccine now

6. Where can you get a meningococcal vaccine?

Where can you get it?	More information
Your personal doctor or health care provider	<p>Please go to your regular doctor if you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have health insurance • Are an HIV-positive Ryan White Program eligible individual <p>We recommend that health plans cover meningococcal vaccines for their members.</p>
Pharmacies	<p>Meningococcal vaccines are offered at some pharmacies. Call your pharmacy to check...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether they have the vaccine • What time they open and close • Who can get the vaccine • How much it costs <p>Pharmacies that may offer vaccinations are posted at http://flushot.healthmap.org</p>
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) clinics	<p>Gay Men/MSM who don't have health insurance can visit any DHS Urgent Care Center (UCC); a list of UCC locations and hours is available at www.dhs.lacounty.gov or by calling 211. Individuals will be financially screened and may have a share of cost depending on income. Individuals who receive regular care in DHS can receive the vaccine from their regular provider.</p>
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) clinics	<p>DPH is holding free vaccine clinics for people who may be at risk for meningococcal disease. Clinic dates, times, and locations are posted at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/Docs/meningitisclinics.pdf</p>

7. Where can you go for more information?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html

California Department of Public Health
www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/MeningococcalDisease.aspx

