

## Meningococcal Disease

- Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria.
- It is spread by respiratory droplets or direct contact with the saliva of an infected person.
- The two most common forms of meningococcal disease are: meningitis – an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord; and septicemia – an infection in the blood.
- Adolescents are at greater risk of getting meningococcal disease.
- Every case of meningococcal disease can result in death or long-term disabilities (e.g., loss of limbs, deafness, blindness, etc.).
- Four meningococcal vaccines are available: **Menactra**, **Menveo**, **Trumenba** and **Bexsero**. For details, see column on the right.

## Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough)

- Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough are all caused by bacteria.
- The protection children receive early in life wanes during childhood, so adolescents need a vaccine booster (Tdap).
- Diphtheria is highly contagious. It is spread when people cough or sneeze.
- Diphtheria can cause breathing difficulties, paralysis, heart failure, and death.
- Tetanus is an infection caused by bacteria usually found in soil, dust, and manure. These bacteria enter the body through an open wound – a cut, puncture, or sore.
- Contracting tetanus is very serious. As many as 20 percent of unvaccinated people who get tetanus will die.
- Tetanus is not contagious. You cannot get it from someone else.
- Whooping cough is highly contagious. It is spread by coughing or sneezing.
- Whooping cough causes severe coughing spells which can lead to rib fractures, pneumonia, seizures, and even death. Often, babies get whooping cough from their older siblings or other family members.
- There are now two Tdap vaccines: **Boostrix** and **Adacel**. For details, see column on the right.

For more information about adolescent vaccinations, visit [health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/childhood\\_and\\_adolescent.htm](http://health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/childhood_and_adolescent.htm)  
Or [cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/index.html](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/index.html)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Department  
of Health

## Vaccines

### Cervarix, Gardasil and Gardasil 9

- All three vaccines protect against the types of HPV that cause most cases of cervical cancer. **Gardasil** and **Gardasil 9** also protect against additional types of HPV that cause most cases of genital warts.
- **Gardasil** and **Gardasil 9** are given in a 3-dose series starting at age 11 or 12. It can be given from ages 9 to 26. They are approved for both males and females.
- **Cervarix** is given in a 3-dose series. They are approved only for females ages 10 to 25.
- All HPV vaccines work best if they are given before an adolescent has been exposed to HPV. (That is, before his or her first sexual contact.)

### Flu Vaccine

- Flu vaccine prevents your children from spreading the flu to family members and others who may be at greater risk for developing serious complications. This includes people with asthma or diabetes, and babies younger than 6 months.
- Your children should get the flu vaccine each year as soon as it is available.
- The flu vaccine is available each season in two forms – the flu shot and the nasal spray.

### Menactra, Menveo, Trumenba and Bexsero

- **Menactra** and **Menveo** protect against the same four types of meningitis: A, C, Y and W-135.
- It is recommended that all 11- to 12-year-olds receive meningitis vaccine, either **Menactra** or **Menveo**. A booster dose of either vaccine should be given at age 16.
- Unvaccinated teens who are entering college should receive a meningitis vaccine before moving into their college dormitories. If a healthy person receives his or her first dose at age 16 or older, a booster dose is not required.
- Either **Trumenba** or **Bexsero** protects against Serogroup B meningococcal bacteria. Some people with special medical conditions may need either **Trumenba** or **Bexsero**, in addition to **Menactra** or **Menveo**.
- **Trumenba** and **Bexsero** may also be given to healthy 16- to 23-year-olds to protect against an additional type of meningitis.

### Boostrix and Adacel

- It is recommended that all 11- to 19-year-olds receive a single booster dose of either **Boostrix** or **Adacel** vaccine.
- This booster dose will help reduce pertussis among adolescents. It will also help them from spreading pertussis to other people. These people may be at higher risk of serious complications from pertussis and/or too young to be immunized (e.g. infants).