

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS



Elimination
Initiative 3

+ Impact goal

Elimination as a public health problem

+ Elimination targets

Eliminate bacterial meningitis epidemics

Reduce by 50% the number of cases of bacterial meningitis

Reduce by 70% the number of deaths from bacterial meningitis

+ Programmatic targets

≥95% vaccine coverage for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCVs), and meningococcal vaccines (where introduced)

≥90% of suspected meningitis cases have cerebrospinal fluid and/or blood samples, with laboratory results for **≥90%** of samples

≥80% of suspected meningitis cases investigated within 24–48 hours and managed with appropriate measures (e.g., chemoprophylaxis for close contacts, targeted vaccination)

Action steps to achieve elimination

① Prevent transmission and protect at-risk populations:

- Sustain **≥95%** vaccination coverage for Hib, PCVs, and meningococcal vaccines (where introduced)
- Ensure timely chemoprophylaxis and follow-up of close contacts of meningococcal disease or Hib meningitis cases, along with strict infection prevention and control in healthcare settings

② Diagnose and treat promptly:

- Strengthen clinical and laboratory capacity for timely diagnosis, appropriate case management, and access to life-saving antibiotics

③ Ensure long-term care:

- Integrate rehabilitation and specialist referrals into healthcare services for management and follow-up of meningitis-related disabilities

④ Sustain high-quality surveillance:

- Strengthen surveillance for suspected and laboratory-confirmed cases of bacterial meningitis, including antimicrobial resistance monitoring, timely investigation, reporting, and follow-up

⑤ Strengthen rapid outbreak response:

- Develop or update national meningitis outbreak preparedness and response plans; conduct regular trainings and simulation exercises to ensure readiness, effective response, and control

More information

· Pan American Health Organization. Tratamiento de las enfermedades infecciosas 2024–2026. Ninth edition. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2024. Available from: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/61354>.

· World Health Organization. Defeating meningitis by 2030: A global road map. Geneva: WHO; 2021. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240026407>.

· World Health Organization. Developing national meningitis plans: an operational manual. Geneva: WHO; 2024. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240094284>.



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