

# MENINGOCOCCUS



## The data

In Latin America, it is estimated that **1 IN EVERY 5 CASES** of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) **WILL DIE**.



## The disease

- > Meningococcus (*Neisseria meningitidis*) can cause invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) that can lead to **MENINGITIS, SEPTICEMIA / MENINGOCOCCEMIA** (blood infection) or both.
- > These diseases cause **PERMANENT DAMAGE** such as deafness, blindness, loss of limbs, learning delays, concentration and memory deficiencies and psychological problems, nervous system alterations and brain damage.
- > Although the numbers of cases are low, the **MORTALITY IS HIGH**.



## Symptoms

They depend on the disease and age:

### <1 year old

- > Bulging of the anterior part of the head (fontanel)
- > Seizures
- > Loss of appetite
- > Irritability without justification or other cause.
- > Fatigue
- > Fever or hypothermia
- > Spots on the body
- > Vomiting

### ≥ 1 year of age and adults

- > Altered state of consciousness
- > Seizures
- > Headache
- > Intolerance to light
- > Fatigue
- > Fever
- > Body spots
- > Nuchal rigidity or other signs of meningeal inflammation.
- > Notable signs of hyperactivity
- > Projectile vomiting (explosive)



## Transmission

- > From person to person by means of the **SALIVA** and **RESPIRATORY DROPS**.
- > Generally, during close contact such as coughing, sneezing or kissing, or long-term contact such as living in close proximity to other people.
- > **INFANTS, TODDLERS, YOUNG CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE AT HIGHER RISK** of contracting the disease, as well as people living in crowded or group settings, those taking certain medications, or people with immunocompromised systems.



## Vaccines

- > There are **4 TYPES OF VACCINES** against meningococcus, but none protects against all serogroups.
- > The use, type, schedule and target population of vaccination in each country **DEPENDS ON ITS EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION**.
- > In the Americas, six countries vaccinate against meningococcus: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba and the United States.
- > If you live in one of these countries, **CONSULT WITH YOUR HEALTH PROVIDER** on the vaccination schedule.