



# WORLD MENINGITIS DAY 2020

## KEY MESSAGES

**5 million** estimated new cases of meningitis globally a year

Estimates suggest that over **20 million** years of healthy life were lost to death or disability from meningitis in 2017.

Almost **300,000 deaths** were caused by meningitis in 2017 alone.

**Meningitis and Septicemia are medical emergencies. Prevention and early recognition are key.**

- Meningitis can have a **life-changing** and **permanent** impact. After effects can include:
  - Organ damage
  - Hearing loss
  - Brain injury
  - Limb loss
- People who lose a loved one have their lives changed forever.
- Vaccines are our best tool for prevention. There are different vaccines to protect against different types of meningitis. **Speak to your local healthcare provider today** to learn what's available for you.

**Meningitis can affect anyone at any time and can kill in hours**

- **Safe and effective vaccines are available** to protect against the most common types of meningitis. More vaccines are coming, but not all meningitis is vaccine preventable, so it is important to learn the signs and symptoms.
- **Trust your instincts** and seek medical attention immediately if you have the symptoms of meningitis.

**We can all do our part to help #DefeatMeningitis**

- **Get vaccinated** to protect yourself and stop the spread of the disease.
- We can all **learn the signs and symptoms** so we know when it's urgent to seek medical help.
- We can all help **build accessible and inclusive societies** to support people who have been affected by the disease.