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**ATTENTION PARENTS!**

**STOP** |  **MENINGITIS**

Adolescents and young adults are at risk of getting a very serious type of meningitis.

*Is someone in your family 11-18 years of age?*

**IF SO, ASK ABOUT IMMUNIZATION!**

A public education initiative brought to you by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases in collaboration with leading healthcare organizations. The goals of this program are supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information and a list of supporting organizations and additional resource materials, please visit <http://stopmeningitis.nfid.org>.  
This program is made possible by an unrestricted educational grant to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases from sanofi pasteur.  
7/2010

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**FACTS ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE**

- Meningococcal disease most often causes meningitis or blood poisoning.
- Adolescents and young adults are at increased risk for meningococcal disease. They account for nearly 15 percent of U.S. cases, and approximately one in seven infected adolescents will die.
- Meningococcal disease is rare, but potentially deadly. The number of meningococcal disease cases changes from year to year. From 1998-2007, about 1,500 Americans were infected each year, and about one in nine died.
- Prolonged close contact among large groups (for example, at sleep-away summer camp or in dormitories) may put adolescents and college students at increased risk of meningococcal disease.
- Up to one in five survivors have permanent disabilities including hearing loss, brain damage or limb amputations.
- The majority of meningococcal disease cases in adolescents and young adults can be prevented through vaccination.

**ABOUT VACCINATION**

**Health officials recommend vaccination for all adolescents 11-18 years of age because they are at risk for contracting meningococcal meningitis.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Recommendations have been issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
7/2010

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