

Meningitis is an infection of a person's spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain. People sometimes refer to it as spinal meningitis. Meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Viral meningitis is generally less severe and usually resolves without specific treatment, while bacterial meningitis can be quite severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss, learning disabilities, and can be fatal (13% mortality rate).

High fever, headache, and stiff neck are common symptoms of meningitis. These symptoms can develop over several hours. Because this disease can progress so rapidly into fatalities, early detection and prompt treatment are extremely important.

Meningococcal Vaccination is available to protect people against some (not all) serotypes of this disease.

**Meningococcal Vaccination** is highly recommended and available at:

**Saline County Health Department**

**1825 Atchinson Ave.**

**Marshall, MO 65340**

**(660 )886-3434**