



MENINGITIS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

* Who is most at risk?

- All HIV-positive men who have sex with men.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM), regardless of HIV status, who regularly have close or intimate contact with other men.

* How does it spread?

It can be spread through prolonged close contact with an infected person. This may include kissing, having sex, or by sharing utensils, a drinking glass, or a cigarette with an infected person. It is **NOT** spread by breathing in air around an infected person.

* What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include high fever, headache, stiff neck and rash. If you develop any of these symptoms, you should **seek medical care immediately**. The infection may cause brain damage or death.



MENINGITIS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

* Who is most at risk?

- All HIV-positive men who have sex with men.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM), regardless of HIV status, who regularly have close or intimate contact with other men.

* How does it spread?

It can be spread through prolonged close contact with an infected person. This may include kissing, having sex, or by sharing utensils, a drinking glass, or a cigarette with an infected person. It is **NOT** spread by breathing in air around an infected person.

* What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include high fever, headache, stiff neck and rash. If you develop any of these symptoms, you should **seek medical care immediately**. The infection may cause brain damage or death.

MENINGITIS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

* Is there a larger risk of meningitis for gay, bisexual men, and MSM?

The latest outbreak of meningitis has disproportionately affected gay, bisexual men and MSM in New York City. Since 2010, 22 cases have been reported with seven of those cases resulting in death. Fifty-five percent of the cases were among HIV-positive men, and African Americans were disproportionately affected. Those affected shared risk factors that included meeting sex partners through the internet. This is why the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has advised men who fit these criteria to get vaccinated.

* Protecting myself - where can I get vaccinated?

If you are concerned about potential exposure, you should get vaccinated. You can visit your local health care provider or call 311. Two doses are required for people who are HIV-positive.

* If I have insurance, is the vaccine covered?

Yes. Under New York State law, health insurance plans must cover such immunizations.

* What if I do not have insurance?

You can get a **FREE** vaccination from either the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Please call 311 for the location nearest you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Contact your health care provider
Call 311

APICHA Community Health Center (212) 334-6029
Callen Lorde Community Health Center (212) 271-7200
Community Health Care Network (866) 246-8259
GMHC (212) 367-1000
Harlem United (212) 987-3707
Ryan Center for Care (212) 749-1820

MENINGITIS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

* Is there a larger risk of meningitis for gay, bisexual men, and MSM?

The latest outbreak of meningitis has disproportionately affected gay, bisexual men and MSM in New York City. Since 2010, 22 cases have been reported with seven of those cases resulting in death. Fifty-five percent of the cases were among HIV-positive men, and African Americans were disproportionately affected. Those affected shared risk factors that included meeting sex partners through the internet. This is why the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has advised men who fit these criteria to get vaccinated.

* Protecting myself - where can I get vaccinated?

If you are concerned about potential exposure, you should get vaccinated. You can visit your local health care provider or call 311. Two doses are required for people who are HIV-positive.

* If I have insurance, is the vaccine covered?

Yes. Under New York State law, health insurance plans must cover such immunizations.

* What if I do not have insurance?

You can get a **FREE** vaccination from either the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Please call 311 for the location nearest you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Contact your health care provider
Call 311

APICHA Community Health Center (212) 334-6029
Callen Lorde Community Health Center (212) 271-7200
Community Health Care Network (866) 246-8259
GMHC (212) 367-1000
Harlem United (212) 987-3707
Ryan Center for Care (212) 749-1820