

Meningitis

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Meningitis Latest News

Health officials in England are scrambling to stop a new meningitis outbreak after a student died and two more fell seriously ill in areas around Reading and Oxfordshire recently.

About Meningitis

- Meningitis is an **inflammation** (swelling) of the **protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord**. These membranes are called **meninges**.
- It can be **deadly** and **often results in serious long-term health issues**.
- **Causes:**
 - It can be caused by several species of **bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites**.
 - **Injuries, cancers, and drugs** cause a **small number of cases**.
- **Bacterial meningitis** is the **most serious type** of meningitis. It is a **severe, life-threatening condition** that can often lead to long-term adverse health consequences.
- **Transmission:** Infections that cause meningitis can be spread through **sneezing and coughing**.

- **Symptoms:**

- **Common symptoms** of meningitis are **neck stiffness, fever, confusion or altered mental status, headaches**, nausea, and vomiting.
- **Less frequent symptoms** are **seizures, coma**, and **neurological deficits** (for example hearing or vision loss, cognitive impairment, or weakness of the limbs).
- Types of **meningitis caused by viruses or bacteria can have similar symptoms**. Symptoms **may be stronger in some types** of meningitis than in others and require different treatment.

- **Treatment and Prevention:**

- Meningitis is a **medical emergency**. It is **potentially fatal within 24 hours** and requires urgent medical attention.
- Meningitis can **vary in severity**, appropriate treatment and care depending on the cause.
- **Meningitis caused by bacteria requires immediate antibiotic treatment.**
- **Vaccines** offer the **best protection against** common types of **bacterial meningitis**.
- **Antibiotics for close contacts** of those with meningococcal disease, when given promptly, decreases the risk of transmission.
- **Viral meningitis usually goes away on its own** without treatment.

Source: TOI

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-meningitis/>

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