



Nigeria Leads with New Meningitis Vaccine

[Source: DTE](#)

Nigeria has made history by being the **first country globally to introduce the Men5CV vaccine**, a groundbreaking step in combating [meningitis](#).

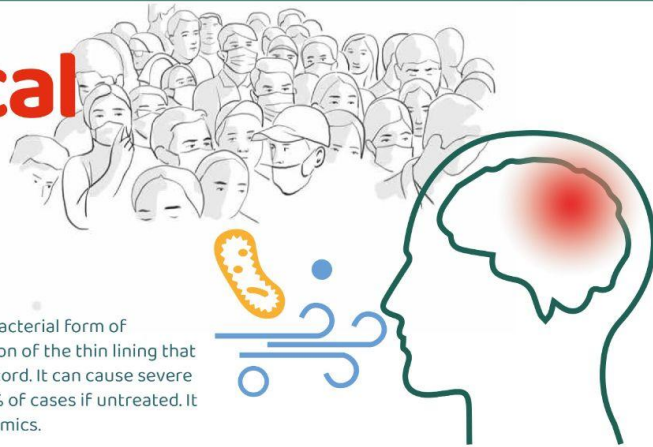
- This new vaccine, endorsed by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), provides protection against **five strains of the meningococcus bacteria** in a single dose, surpassing previous vaccines that targeted fewer strains.
- With a recent surge in cases across the continent, the introduction of **Men5CV** aligns with **WHO's goal to eliminate meningitis by 2030**.
- **Meningitis is a serious infection of the meninges**, the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.
 - The disease can be caused by many different pathogens including **bacteria, fungi or viruses**, but the highest global burden is seen with bacterial meningitis.
 - Several different bacteria can cause meningitis. ***Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*** are the most frequent ones.

Meningococcal meningitis

Information for mass gatherings

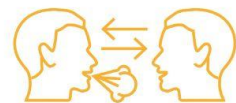
Source of infection

Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis. It is a serious infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. It can cause severe brain damage and is fatal in 50% of cases if untreated. It can also cause wide-scale epidemics.



Types of exposure & prevention

Meningitis spreads from one person to another by droplets from the nose and mouth when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. This happens especially when in close and prolonged contact with infected persons, as well as during mass gatherings.



Prevent it by:



Getting vaccinated, especially before attending mass gatherings like hajj and umrah



Taking antibiotics when prescribed. When taken promptly, antibiotics can reduce transmission among close contacts. Ciprofloxacin should be given or Ceftriaxone as an alternative.



Wearing masks during mass gatherings to avoid respiratory transmission.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of meningitis are:



Stiff neck



High fever



Sensitivity to light



Confusion



Headaches



Vomiting

Actions to take in case of symptoms:



Seek medical advice and start any prescribed treatment immediately. Early antibiotic treatment is critical in saving lives and reducing complications.

Read more: [Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis: WHO](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/nigeria-leads-with-new-meningitis-vaccine>