

On October 23, 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to add Menveo, a meningococcal conjugate vaccine, to the options available for recommended vaccination of infants who are at increased risk of meningococcal disease. This includes infants beginning at 2 months of age who have complement component deficiency and functional or anatomic asplenia (including sickle cell disease) or those traveling to certain parts of the world such as Mecca for the Hajj or parts of Africa.

The National Meningitis Association (NMA) supports this important decision that will help protect high-risk children from the potentially devastating effects of meningococcal disease.

NMA also believes that every parent and healthcare professional should understand the potential impact of meningococcal disease and be knowledgeable about vaccination options for infants. Any parent who wishes to have their child vaccinated, whether or not they are at increased risk, should be able to request it from their healthcare provider.

For more information about the impact of meningococcal disease, we encourage you to watch or read stories from our Moms on Meningitis (M.O.M.s):

- [Clare and Phoenix](#)
- [Echo and Gavin](#)

Although it is rare, meningococcal disease can come on quickly and can lead to death or disability within hours. It is important for parents and healthcare professionals to be aware of [the symptoms of meningococcal disease](#) in infants so they can better recognize the disease.

We look forward to the day when vaccines are available and used to provide the broadest protection possible against all strains of the disease.