**World Meningitis Day 2021**

**Facts**

**Those affected need support**

* Meningitis is a leading cause of hearing loss. Hearing aid production meets **<10% of global need**.
* A UK study found that it costs **three times as much** to raise a child with a disability.
* Depression and anxiety, common psychological impacts of meningitis, cost the global economy **US$1 trillion** each year in lost productivity.

**Meningitis can be prevented**

* Vaccines are the best tool for prevention and can help protect those around you.

## **Multiple vaccines** are required for protection against different types of meningitis. In the Uk **Meningitis B vaccine, 6-in-1 vaccine, Pneumococcal vaccine, Hib/Men C vaccine, MMR vaccine, Meningiti** **s ACWY vaccine** are available.

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**Globally:**

* There are **461** estimated new cases of meningitis a year in the UK
* There are **50,000** deaths from meningitis a year.
* In 2019, there were thousandsof people living with disability as a result of meningitis.
* Meningitis and neonatal sepsis are the **2nd leading infectious cause of death** in children under the age of 5 globally.

**The cost of meningitis**

* **1 in 10** people with bacterial meningitis die.
* **1 in 5** survivors of bacterial meningitis have serious lifelong after-effects.
* Meningitis is an emotionally devastating disease that **affects many across a lifetime.**

**What is meningitis?**

* An inflammation of the membranes surrounding the spinal cord and brain.
* Can be caused by: viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, or non-infectious means (e.g. cancer or lupus).
* Any form of meningitis is a **medical emergency**.

 **Suspect meningitis?**

[www.comomeningitis.org](http://www.comomeningitis.org) 24th April 2021 #WorldMeningitisDay #DefeatMeningitis

**For babies**

Fever

Unusual, high-pitched cry

Vomiting

Difficult to wake

Dislike of being handled

Rash

Loss of appetite

Blank staring

Pale or blotchy skin

Bulging soft spot on head

Neck retraction

**Signs and Symptoms**

**For children/adults**

Fever

Severe headache

Vomiting

Drowsy

Confusion

Rash

Seizures

Muscle or joint pain

Stiff neck

Avoiding bright light

Behavioural changes

 **Seek urgent medical attention**