



## What is Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD)?

For people living in group settings and who will travel or study overseas

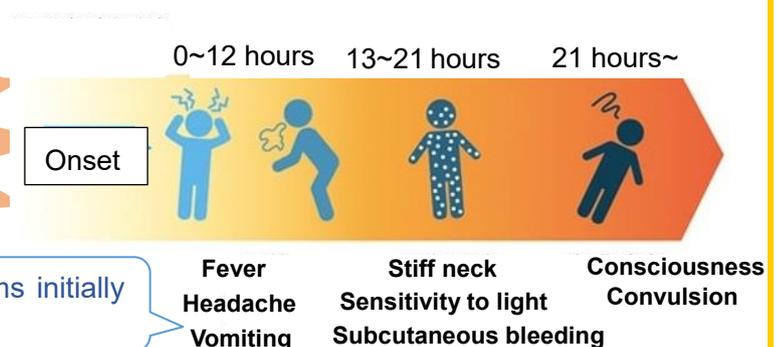
**IMD is an infectious disease affecting the entire body that is caused by the bacteria, *Neisseria meningitides*.**



*Neisseria meningitides* lives in the mucous membranes of healthy people, such as in the nose or throat healthy carrier. The bacteria is primarily spread from person to person through droplets that infect the mucous membranes of nose, throat, and trachea. When it invades the blood and meninges, spreading throughout the body to cause IMD. **The disease spreads quickly and in serious cases can be fatal.**

There are reports that 5-10% of patients die within 24 to 48 hours! Patients who recover sometimes experience severe after effects.

When an infection occurs, the symptoms initially resemble those of the common cold.



## Who needs to be careful ?

### Mainly people who live in groups settings, like dormitories or training camps

People who the Japan Pediatric Society recommends be vaccinated

Spending long periods of time with large numbers of people increases the risk of infection. Cases in Japan have occurred in dormitories, including at schools, and among people who visited areas where IMD is prevalent.



### People who will visit areas where IMD is prevalent

IMD epidemics have been reported at university dormitories in countries including the United States, Australia, Britain, and Canada. You may be asked to be vaccinated when studying abroad and moving into a dormitory.



**While the number of healthy carrier in Japan is lower compared to European countries, vaccination is recommended. Because it can prevent this disease.**



One inoculation will prevent the disease for several years. The stress and fatigue of living in a strange environment overseas or dormitory may weaken your immune-defence power. Please get vaccinated before starting your new life on campus!