

# About the Meningitis B Action Project

## Know. Act. Prevent.

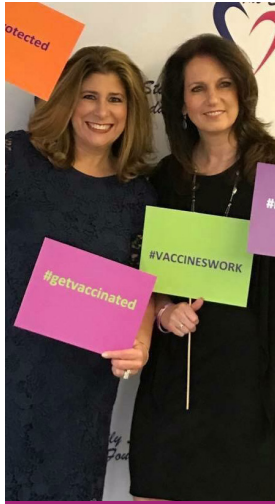
Patti Wukovits and Alicia Stillman each lost their young, healthy daughters too soon to Meningitis B, a disease that is now preventable through vaccination.

In 2012, high school senior Kimberly, 17, Patti's daughter, died one week before her graduation. In 2013, college sophomore Emily, 19, Alicia's daughter, died just 36 hours after her first symptoms.

In 2014, to educate the public about meningococcal meningitis and MenB vaccination, both mothers established foundations named after their daughters.

Patti and Alicia have since worked tirelessly to spread their message.

Both mothers have joined forces under the Meningitis B Action Project to make sure other families don't needlessly suffer the same fate.



PATTI AND ALICIA IN ACTION

In the case of Kimberly and Emily, while both had received the MenACWY vaccine, the MenB vaccine was not yet available to help protect them against Meningitis B.

*"The Meningitis B Action Project is a fantastic initiative by two dedicated CoMO members. Raising awareness of the different vaccines available to protect against meningococcal meningitis is so important in the fight against this disease."*

— Sam Nye, Executive Director, Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO)

*"Our job as parents is to put children in the safest position possible. Meningococcal vaccines provide that safety."*

— Dr. Paul A. Offit, Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

*"In bringing together The Kimberly Coffey and Emily Stillman Foundations to combat Meningitis B, we can have optimism that our young adults will know to request vaccines to protect more fully against meningococcal disease."*

— Karen Ernst, MA, Executive Director, Voices For Vaccines

*"One meningitis vaccine is not enough to protect your child. Make sure your child also receives a Meningitis B vaccine."*




— Mary Koslap-Petraco, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (DNP PNP-BC CPNP FAANP)

*"As a mother and nurse, I value the educational efforts these foundations are undertaking to spread the word about the importance of getting protection from all meningococcal strains. Vaccination is the best way to protect children, no matter their age, from vaccine preventable diseases."*

— Melody Butler, BSN, RN, Founding Executive Director, Nurses Who Vaccinate

## Want to get involved or learn more about the Meningitis B Action Project?

Contact us at

-  [MeningitisBActionProject.org](http://MeningitisBActionProject.org)
-  [info@meningitisbactionproject.org](mailto:info@meningitisbactionproject.org)
-  [/MeningitisBActionProject](https://www.facebook.com/MeningitisBActionProject)
-  [@MeningitisBActionProject](https://www.instagram.com/MeningitisBActionProject)
-  [@MenBAction](https://twitter.com/MenBAction)

# HAS YOUR CHILD RECEIVED THE MENINGITIS B VACCINE?

Few parents know about it, but it could save your child's life.

## ASK YOUR CHILD'S HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT BOTH VACCINES.

Two types of meningitis vaccines (MenACWY and MenB) are necessary to be fully vaccinated against the most common form of bacterial meningitis in adolescents and young adults.



**Meningitis B Action Project**

a joint initiative by The Kimberly Coffey Foundation and The Emily Stillman Foundation



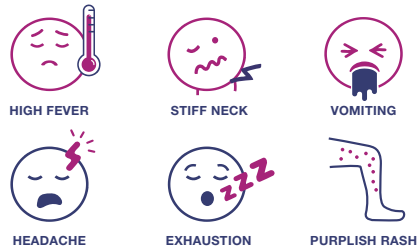
KIMBERLY COFFEY

EMILY STILLMAN

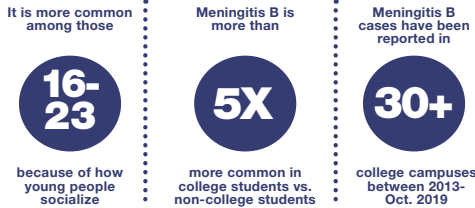
# WHAT IS MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS?

Meningococcal bacteria can cause a life-threatening bloodstream infection (sepsis) or meningitis (infection of the lining around the brain)—or both.

It can attack without warning and **SYMPTOMS** include:



**It's more common than you think**  
Meningococcal meningitis can affect all ages, and it can occur anywhere.



**Few are fully vaccinated** against meningococcal meningitis.



The most common form of bacterial meningitis in adolescents and young adults.

**5** MAINLY CAUSED BY types of meningococcal bacteria: **A-B-C-W-Y**

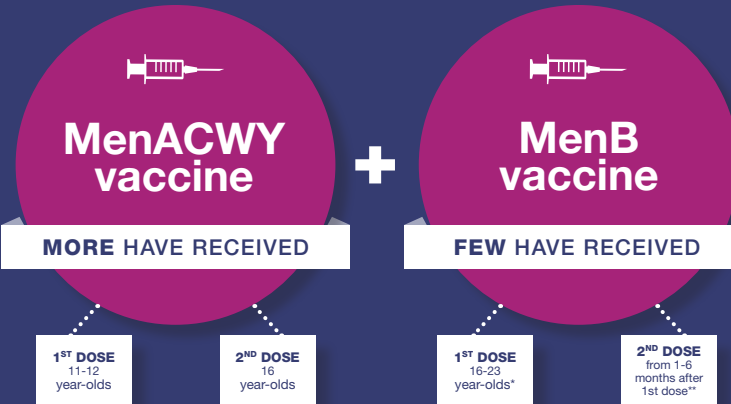
IT IS **EASY TO SPREAD** from person-to-person.



# HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR CHILD?

It takes **TWO TYPES OF MENINGITIS VACCINES** to be fully vaccinated against the most common form of bacterial meningitis in adolescents and young adults.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends:



**But....**

- Many parents don't know about the MenB vaccine – more than 80%, according to a recent study.
- Many doctors aren't talking to their patients about the MenB vaccine. 49% of pediatricians and 69% of family physicians did not discuss the MenB vaccine during routine visits for 16-18 year olds.

**Don't take a chance.**

Talk to your healthcare provider today to make sure your child has received all the necessary doses of *both* the MenACWY and MenB vaccines.



# WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- 1 First, talk to your healthcare provider.** They can tell you more about meningococcal meningitis and the two types of vaccines necessary to help prevent it.
- 2 Let your family and friends know.** Visit our website for educational resources, including brochures, posters, videos and graphics, to share with your family, friends and community.
- 3 Let us help you.** Patti and Alicia are eager to share their stories to spread this important message.

**A few other ideas to get you started:**

- ✓ Connect with us on social media.
- ✓ Ask your healthcare provider to display posters or brochures in their waiting rooms. Need copies? Contact us!
- ✓ Distribute posters and brochures to your local schools, libraries and other public spaces.
- ✓ Invite us to speak at local Parent Teacher Association meetings, organizational gatherings and other events.
- ✓ Use our digital action kit (available on our website) for other ideas.

**Have other ideas? We'd love to hear them.**

Contact us at [info@meningitisbactionproject.org](mailto:info@meningitisbactionproject.org)

**And the really scary part... it can kill in a matter of hours.**

Or cause permanent complications: brain damage, hearing loss, learning disabilities or limb amputations.

\* Preferably 16-18  
\*\* Dependent on the brand.  
Sources: Visit [meningitisbactionproject.org](http://meningitisbactionproject.org) for details.