

# “Boost Our Rates!”

## VOICES OF MENINGITIS

A Meningococcal Disease Prevention Campaign  
from the National Association of School Nurses

In collaboration with Sanofi Pasteur

## Help Protect Washington Teens by Boosting Meningitis Vaccination Rates!

### Help Boost Vaccination Rates in Washington

The School Nurse Organization of Washington is launching the *Voices of Meningitis* “Boost Our Rates!” initiative in Washington to call on community members to help boost meningococcal meningitis vaccination rates among preteens and teens.

Meningitis vaccination rates in Washington are well below public health goals, with nearly one third of adolescents unvaccinated, leaving too many young people vulnerable to this potentially fatal disease. Parents also may be unaware that their adolescent children may need a second vaccination, according to current health recommendations.

Visit [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org) to see other organizations that are also supporting “Boost Our Rates!” to help increase vaccination rates nationwide.

### Get Preteens and Teens Vaccinated

Meningococcal vaccination has been available for years and is the most effective way to help prevent the disease. Public health officials recommend vaccination for preteens and teens beginning at 11 or 12 years of age with a booster dose by 18 years of age.

This means adolescents who have already been vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis may now need a second dose to help keep them protected during the years when they are at greatest risk of infection.

### Meningococcal Meningitis: Rare but Potentially Deadly

Meningococcal disease, which includes meningitis, is a rare but serious bacterial infection that can cause death or disability in just a single day. Preteens and teens are at greater risk for getting meningitis and are more likely to die than other age groups.

### Don't Wait Take Action Today

- Talk to your child's school nurse or health care provider about meningitis prevention or to schedule a vaccination appointment – even if your child was vaccinated as a preteen.
- Spread the word among other parents about the importance of vaccination to help prevent meningitis.
- Join the conversation and “like” *Voices of Meningitis* on Facebook. For every “like” received, 25¢ will be donated to the National Association of School Nurses, up to \$10,000, to help protect more children.

Visit [VoicesOfMeningitis.org](http://VoicesOfMeningitis.org) or “like” us on Facebook  
and learn more about meningococcal meningitis and vaccination.