

Sanofi gets expanded meningitis vaccine approval

April 25 2011

(AP) -- Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of Sanofi-Aventis, said Monday the Food and Drug Administration approved the company's bacterial meningitis vaccine Menactra for children between the ages of 9 months and 23 months.

The disease is fairly rare in the United States, but those who get it develop symptoms quickly and can die in only a few days. Survivors can suffer mental disabilities, hearing loss and paralysis. The [bacteria](#) is spread by coughing, sneezing and kissing, and most cases occur in previously healthy children and young adults.

The company said this is the first U.S. approval for a bacterial [meningitis vaccine](#) for the age group between 9 months and 23 months.

Menactra was already approved for people ages 11 through 55 and children between 2 and 10 years old.

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