

VACCINE INFORMATION SHEET

Meningitis (Meningococcal ACYW₁₃₅) Disease Vaccine (Menactra® or Menveo® Vaccine)

This vaccine protects against Meningococcal infection

- One dose of the vaccine is recommended to people born on or after January 1, 1997. Public Health provides one dose of this vaccine to school aged children from grades 7 - 12

Mild side effects may occur, such as:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Slight fever, headache, tiredness

Severe side effects are rare

People should avoid this immunization if they:

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine
- Those who have an allergy to diphtheria toxoid
- Those who have received a Meningococcal conjugate vaccine within the past 4 weeks

People should consult their health care provider before vaccination if they:

- Have complicated medical issues or previous severe reactions to vaccines
- Those who have a severe allergy to any of the vaccine components

Meningitis

Meningitis is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria Meningitidis*, it is a serious illness that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the tissue around the brain and spinal cord) or infection of the blood. Meningitis can cause death or severe long-term health problems, including hearing loss or brain damage. Symptoms can include sudden onset of fever, severe headache, a stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and sometimes a rash. Serious illness can develop quickly and 10 per cent can die from the disease.

The bacteria can spread from person to person through direct contact with secretions from the nose and throat of an infected individual, kissing or using items that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth, such as: cups, water bottles, straws, cigarettes, food and utensils, musical instruments, toothbrushes or lipstick.

More about the Meningococcal A, C, Y, W135 (Menactra®) vaccine

Menactra provides protection against four serogroups (strains) that cause Meningococcal disease- A,C,Y, W135. It is required to attend school in Ontario for students ages 12 and over and is available at no cost in grade 7. Other meningococcal vaccines are offered to children at younger ages (e.g., NeisVac-c or Menjugate) which protect against Type C Meningococcal disease only, and do not offer protection from strains A, Y, or W135.

If a dose of Menactra is received in childhood, another dose is not required for school attendance but it is safe and recommended for students to receive the grade 7 dose.

PUBLIC HEALTH

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