IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Meningococcal Group C Conjugate Vaccine

What is meningococcal group C disease?

- Meningococcal group C disease is caused by a bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*) known as meningococcus.
- Many people carry the bacteria at the back of their throat or nose without being sick.
- This bacteria sometimes overcomes the body's natural defences and causes serious illnesses, including meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain) and meningococcemia (a widespread infection involving the blood and multiple organs). If either of these illnesses occurs, this is called Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD), which is life-threatening.
- Group C is one of several strains of these bacteria that cause meningococcal disease.
- Some children can become deaf or suffer from kidney damage, amputations, or hearing loss as a result of meningococcal disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is the meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine?

- Meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine is intended for the prevention of illness caused by the group C strain of meningococcus.
- It does not protect against other strains of this bacteria or other organisms that cause meningitis or septicemia.
- The vaccine is given by injection. It cannot cause meningococcal disease because it contains no live bacteria.

Who should receive the meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine?

- The Nova Scotia Routine Immunization Schedules for Children, Youth & Adults recommends that this vaccine be given to babies 12 months of age. If the vaccine was missed, this vaccine can still be given routinely up until the 5th birthday.
- People who may be exposed to the meningococcus bacteria, and people who are at high risk of catching meningococcal disease, should consider getting this vaccine.

Who should NOT receive the meningococcal group C conjugate(Men-C) vaccine?

- People who have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose or any component of the meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine.
- People who are sick or have a fever (temperature of 38.5°C/101.3°F or greater).

Some people should check with a healthcare provider before they receive this vaccine:

- People who have thrombocytopenia or other bleeding disorders.

Please read other side.

www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

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IMMUNIZATION AFTERCARE

Meningococcal Group C Conjugate Vaccine

People should stay in the clinic for at least 15 minutes after receiving any type of immunization to monitor possible reaction. As with any vaccine there is a slight possibility that a more serious reaction could occur.

What are the possible side effects of the meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine?

- As with any other vaccine, the most common side effects are soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, tiredness, and fever.
- Fever and irritability have been reported in younger children. Fever may happen 4–6 hours after immunization, but lasts no longer than 24 hours.

As fever may occur, make sure you have acetaminophen or ibuprofen at home. Follow the instructions that come with the product. Talk to your healthcare provider before using either of these medications as they are not recommended for people with certain medical conditions.

Call your healthcare provider if:

- A fever lasts longer than 24 hours.
- A fever is 38.5°C (101.3°F) or higher.
- A fever doesn't come down after acetaminophen or ibuprofen are taken.
- A seizure occurs.
- Other illness or symptoms occur.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding meningococcal group C disease or the meningococcal group C conjugate vaccine, please call your local Public Health office (see list of offices here: www.nshealth.ca/public-health) or your healthcare provider.

For more information on immunization, please visit the following websites:

Nova Scotia Health Public Health
www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

Immunize Canada
immunize.ca

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.canada.ca/public-health

Canadian Paediatric Society
cps.ca

811
811.novascotia.ca

www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

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