IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Quadrivalent Conjugate Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW) Vaccine

What is meningococcal disease?

- Meningococcal 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 feeling sick or having symptoms.
- These bacteria sometimes overcome the body's natural defences and cause 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 conditions occurs, this is called Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD), which is life-threatening.
- There are several strains of these bacteria that cause meningococcal disease.
- Some people who get meningococcal disease can suffer from kidney damage, amputations, or hearing loss.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is the quadrivalent conjugate meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW) vaccine?

- The Men-C-ACYW vaccine provides protection against illness caused by the group A, C, Y, and W-135 strains 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 can't cause meningococcal disease because it contains no live bacteria.

Who should receive the Men-C-ACYW vaccine?

- In Nova Scotia, the Men-C-ACYW vaccine is routinely offered to Grade 7 students as part of the School Immunization Program. If the vaccine was missed or refused in the Grade 7 School Immunization Program, people can still get the vaccine for free as part of this program until 19 years of age.
- People who may be exposed to the meningococcus bacteria, and people who are at high risk of getting meningococcal disease, should consider getting this vaccine.

Who should NOT receive the Men-C-ACYW vaccine?

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

Please read other side.

www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

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IMMUNIZATION AFTERCARE

Quadrivalent Conjugate Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW) 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 Men-C-ACYW vaccine?

As with any other vaccine, the most common side effects are soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, tiredness, and fever.

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.
- Other illness or symptoms occur.

Questions?

If you have any questions about meningococcal disease or the Men-C-ACYW 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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