

Meningococcal Conjugate Quadrivalent Vaccine (Groups A, C, Y & W-135)



Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

This vaccine protects against meningococcal infections and their complications. There are different types of meningococcus: A, B, C, Y & W-135. This vaccine protects against A, C, Y & W-135. A vaccine to protect against Group B is not currently available.

Diseases	Meningococcal disease symptoms:	Meningococcal disease causes:	Possible complications:
	High fever (sudden onset) Severe headache Vomiting Stiff neck Rash (or small bruises) Sensitivity to light Sleepiness / confusion Coma (severe cases)	Septicaemia (blood poisoning) Meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain & spinal cord)	Deafness Loss of limbs Heart damage Permanent brain damage Death (8-15% of cases)

This disease is easily spread by direct contact with the saliva, sputum or nasal mucous of an infected person, most commonly by coughing, sneezing, or kissing.

Babies are usually vaccinated against meningococcal group C. Emerging studies have shown that a booster dose of meningococcal vaccine is now necessary for adolescents. This quadrivalent conjugate vaccine not only boosts protection against group C, but also provides protection against 3 additional strains that cause meningococcal disease. The vaccine is funded for students attending grade 7 in Ontario.

The meningococcal vaccine should not be given if the person has:

- Experienced allergies or previous reactions to a vaccine
- A history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome
- Received Menomune™, another vaccine against meningococcal disease (should wait at least 6 months before getting this vaccine)

Talk to your health care provider before receiving this vaccine if you think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

Vaccine	Possible side effects:	What to do:
	Swelling, redness and/or tenderness at the injection site.	Apply a cold, damp cloth to the area.
	Other reactions may be high-pitched crying, irritability, drowsiness, vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, sleepiness or rash.	Usually mild and go away in 1-3 days. See a health care provider if symptoms are serious or persist.
	A mild fever happens rarely.	See a health care provider if you are concerned about symptoms.
	Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Most severe reactions occur shortly after receiving the vaccine.	It is important to wait 15 minutes after the injection for observation before leaving the clinic. Seek immediate medical attention if experiencing a severe reaction.

For more information go to:

www.immunize.ca

www.healthcanada.gc.ca/vaccinate

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/family-health/immunization.html>