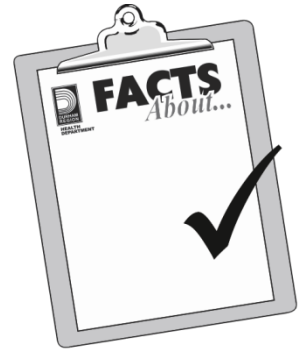




# FACTS *About...*



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate Vaccine (e.g., Menactra®)

### What is it?

- Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate (Men-C-ACYW-135) vaccine protects against 4 types of bacteria (A, C, Y and W-135) that cause invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). IMD can cause swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and/or a blood infection. IMD can lead to serious illness or in some cases death. For more information, see Facts About...Meningitis.
- Menactra®, Menveo®, and Nimenrix® are Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccines that are approved for use in Canada.
- Men-C-ACYW-135 (e.g. Menactra®) is different from meningococcal C vaccines (e.g., Menjugate®) and meningococcal B vaccines (e.g., Bexsero®). Talk to your health care provider for more information.

### Who should receive the vaccine?

Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine is recommended and publicly funded (free) for people 9 months to 55 years of age, where the risk of IMD is ongoing, including:

- Adolescents (routinely at 12 years of age) and young adults. Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine is offered for FREE at school-based vaccine clinics in grade 7.
- People with a non-functional spleen (e.g., people with sickle cell disease or who may be having or who have had their spleen removed).
- Close contacts of anyone who has IMD caused by any of the four strains A, C, Y, and W-135.
- People who have complement, properdin or factor D or primary antibody deficiencies.
- Cochlear implant recipients (pre/post).
- People with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

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For more information

Durham Region Health Department

905-666-6241 1-800-841-2729 durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



## Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate Vaccine

Other people recommended to receive Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine include:

- Travelers going to countries where the vaccine is recommended.
- People who work in research, industrial and clinical labs who may be exposed to the bacteria.
- Military personnel during recruit training and on certain deployments.
- People who have previously received Menomune® vaccine and have ongoing risk of infection.

### What is the schedule for the vaccine?

Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine is offered for FREE to children in grade 7 through school-based and public health immunization clinics.

Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, one dose of Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine is **required** for children attending school in Ontario unless they have a valid exemption\*. It is recommended that all grade 7 students receive a dose of Men-C-ACYW-135, unless received in the last 5 years.

### Are there side effects with the vaccine?

The most common reported side effects are:

- Redness, pain and swelling where the needle was given
- Headache
- Fussiness in children
- Fatigue

Side effects are usually mild and last only a short time. A cold, wet compress applied to the injection site and/or acetaminophen can be used to help relieve pain, swelling, and/or mild fever after vaccination.

Severe allergic reactions after vaccination are very rare and may not be related to the vaccine. However, if you think a serious reaction is developing, seek medical attention right away. Any unusual or significant changes in your health or your child's health after the immunization should be reported to a health care provider and the Health Department

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## Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate Vaccine

### Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- People who have received a meningococcal conjugate vaccine within the past 4 weeks.
- If you have any medical conditions, discuss with a health care provider to determine if you should receive the vaccine.
- People who are sick with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold should wait until they feel better.
- Anyone who has had an allergic or severe reaction to a previous dose of any vaccine (talk to your health care provider).
- Any component in a vaccine may be a potential allergen. The most common allergens for Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccines are:
  - Menactra®: diphtheria toxoid protein
  - Menveo®: diphtheria CRM toxoid carrier protein
  - Nimenrix®: tetanus toxoid protein
- For more information on contents of vaccine refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide, Evergreen Edition](#)

### Don't forget to update your record of protection

After you or your child receives a vaccine, update your immunization record (yellow card). For children in school or child care, please call the Health Department to update your child's immunization record. Keep immunization records in a safe place!

\*Parents must contact the Health Department if you object to immunization based on conscious or religious beliefs, or if your child cannot be immunized for medical reasons

August 28, 2018

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