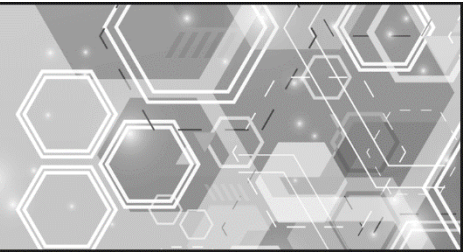




## Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



# **Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate (Men-C-ACYW-135) Vaccine**

## **What is it?**

Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate (Men-C-ACYW-135) vaccine protects against five types of bacteria (A, B, C, Y and W) that cause meningococcal disease. For more information, see [Facts About ... Meningitis](#).

**There are several types of meningococcal vaccines available in Canada**, including Menactra®, MENVEO®, MenQuadfi™ and NIMENRIX®. Men-C-ACYW-135 is different from meningococcal C conjugate (Men-C-C) vaccines (e.g., MENJUGATE) and meningococcal B vaccines (e.g., BEXSERO). Talk to your health care provider for more information.

## **How effective is the vaccine?**

- Men-C-ACYW-135 is 80% to 85% effective in adolescents within the first three to four years of vaccination, but protection decreases over time.

## **Who should get the vaccine?**

The following people can receive the **Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine for free**.

- Grade 7 to 12 students through the school-based immunization program.
- People who are at increased risk of the disease because of chronic health issues.
- People born on or after January 1, 1997 who have never received a publicly funded dose.

The vaccine may be recommended for others at risk for the disease, such as those who travel to areas where meningococcal disease is common, however, the vaccine may have to be purchased. Talk to your health care provider or your private health insurance if you are not eligible to receive the vaccine for free.

... over



## What is the schedule for the vaccine?

- One dose of the Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine is given to students in grade 7 through the school-based immunization program.
- 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\*

## Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine is safe. Side effects are usually mild and last a short time.
- The most common side effects are injection site reaction (pain, redness, and/or swelling), myalgia, headache and/or low-grade fever.
- 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.

## Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- If you received a meningococcal conjugate vaccine (e.g. Men-C-C) within the last 4 weeks.
- If you received a meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (e.g. Men-C-ACYW-135) within the past 6 months.
- If you are sick with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold, you should wait until you feel better.
- If you have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to any previous vaccine(s) or to any component of the vaccine.

For more information on contents of the vaccine, please refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).

## Don't forget to update your immunization record!

For children in school or child care, inform Durham Region Health Department of your child's vaccine. Health care providers do not report vaccines to the Health Department automatically. Keep your records updated and in a safe place.

**After your child receives a vaccine, update** Durham Region Health Department:

- Online at [durham.ca/immunize](http://durham.ca/immunize) (you may also attach a photo of your record).
- By calling 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242.
- By faxing your vaccine/immunization record to 905-666-6216.

The Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON) tool allows you to see your child's vaccine/immunization record online anytime.

February 26, 2026