

# Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine Men-C-ACYW-135 Fact Sheet

The meningococcal conjugate Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine, Menactra® or Menveo™, helps to protect almost all children and adults from an illness called invasive meningococcal disease.

## What is invasive meningococcal disease?

- Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) is a serious contagious infection caused by the bacteria *N meningitidis*. There are 13 types, but A, B, C, Y & W-135 are the most common.
- IMD can cause swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, known as meningitis, or a serious infection of the blood, known as meningococcal septicemia. It can be fatal.
- Symptoms of IMD start suddenly, from 2 to 10 days after exposure. They include fever, aches, joint pain, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and a red pin-point rash, followed by drowsiness, confusion or agitation.
- The bacteria spread to others through face-to-face contact with an infected person's saliva or secretions (fluids) from the nose and throat. Examples include sneezing and coughing and activities such as kissing and sharing food, drinks, toothbrushes, toys or cigarettes.
- IMD is most common in children under the age of five, and adolescents.
- It occurs more often in the winter and spring in Canada (temperate climate) and in the dry season in tropical climates, e.g. December to June in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Early treatment with antibiotics is important.

## Who should get Menactra® or Menveo™?

### Publicly funded (free)

- It is recommended for
  - children in grades 7 to 12 in Ontario, even if they were vaccinated as an infant or toddler.
  - individuals born on or after January 1, 1997.
  - individuals 9 months to 55 years of age with certain medical conditions.
  - close contacts of a known case of IMD caused by groups A, Y or W, with ongoing exposure.

### Chargeable

- Individuals up to 55 years of age who wish to be immunized and do not qualify for publicly funded vaccine.
- Individuals over 55 years of age with certain medical conditions (funded by Hastings Prince Edward Public Health).
- Individuals over 55 years of age may receive Menactra® if they
  - are travelling to a high risk area for meningitis, such as Saudi Arabia (for Hajj, Umrah, or seasonal work) where immunization for IMD is a requirement
  - are laboratory personnel / health care workers who may be exposed to *N. meningitidis*

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## Who should not get Menactra® or Menveo™?

- Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to this vaccine in the past, or to any component of the vaccine:
  - **Menactra®** - (9 months to 55 years) neisseria meningitidis (A, C, W, Y), **diphtheria** toxoid protein, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate Does **not** contain latex
  - **Menveo™** - (2 months to 55 years) meningococcal C, W-135 and Y oligosaccharides, corynebacterium **diphtheria**, potassium phosphate, sucrose, sodium chloride, sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate, di-sodium hydrogen phosphate bihydrate Does **not** contain latex or preservatives
- Anyone with a weakened immune system or on high doses of corticosteroids
- Anyone with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)
- Anyone who has been vaccinated within the past 4 weeks with another Men-C vaccine
- Anyone with a high fever, or moderate to severe illness should wait until they feel well.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women should only be vaccinated if it is clearly necessary.

## What are the common side effects of Menactra® or Menveo™?

- Some people may feel sore and swollen for a few days where the needle was given and have general muscle aches, headaches, fever and / or feel tired for a day or two.
- Tylenol® or ibuprofen may be taken afterwards, as directed, to reduce discomfort or fever.
- **Children under 19 years of age should not be given ASA, Aspirin® or salicylates.**

## What else do I need to know?

- To avoid germs, do not share water bottles or other drinks, food or eating utensils, toothbrushes or mouth guards, etc., and encourage your children to do the same.
- To reduce the spread of germs, sneeze or cough into a tissue or into your elbow or upper sleeve, and wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- The Immunization of School Pupils Act requires all students between the ages of 4 to 17 to be immunized according to Ontario's Immunization Schedule, unless a valid Statement of Medical Exemption or Conscience or Religious Belief is on file with public health.

## When should I seek medical attention after immunization?

- If you or your child experiences any unusual side effects, seek medical attention and notify us.
- Go to Emergency at a hospital right away or call 911 if you or your child has any of the following after immunization:
  - swelling of the face and neck
  - problems breathing
  - hives and itchy, reddened skin

## Your Record of Protection

After you receive any immunization, make sure your health care provider updates your personal immunization record. Keep it in a safe place. Please inform us of any immunizations not received here.

**Other questions?** Talk to your health care provider or call our Immunization Program at 613-966-5500 Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | [www.hpepublichealth.ca](http://www.hpepublichealth.ca)

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