

Menactra[®] Vaccine

(Meningococcal groups A, C, Y and W-135 Vaccine)

Menactra[®] is a vaccine that protects against four types of meningococcal disease – A/C/Y and W-135

- It can be given to people between the ages of two and 55 years old
- It is given as an injection in the muscle of the upper arm
- One dose is required for protection against all four strains

Note: No vaccine is available for viral meningitis or for group B meningococcal disease

Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
 - Headache, irritability, fatigue, a general feeling of being unwell, loss of appetite
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have an allergy to latex
- Have a history of Guillian-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

Meningococcal Disease

- Is a serious infection that causes swelling of the tissues that cover the brain and spinal cord
- Produces symptoms including sudden onset of high fever, intense headache, stiff neck, painful sensitivity to light, nausea and often vomiting
- Can also invade the bloodstream causing rash, cold hands and feet, rapid breathing, painful muscles, and joint or abdominal pain
- Can result in amputations, deafness, scarring, brain or kidney damage and death
- Is caused by bacteria that are quite common. These bacteria can be found in the back of the throat and nose of 10 to 30 percent of people without making them ill. Only very rarely do these bacteria invade the body to cause illness
- Spreads from person to person through droplets expelled from the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person, by coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing food, utensils, cigarettes or drinks

For further information, please call:

York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653

TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca

