MENINGOCOCCAL
Vaccine Fact Sheet

(MENVEO®, NIMENRIX® OR MENQUADFI® Meningococcal-C-ACYW135 Vaccine)

WHAT IS MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. It can lead to inflammation of the tissue around the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) or infection of the bloodstream. Symptoms can include sudden onset of fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and sometimes a rash.

Serious illness can develop quickly in a few hours, and the disease can be fatal for 10% of infected people. Up to one in five survivors have long-term disabilities such as limb loss, brain damage and/or deafness.

Meningococcal disease is not very common in Canada, but teens and young adults may be at increased risk.

The bacteria can spread from person to person through direct contact with secretions from the nose and throat of an infected individual, from kissing, or using items that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth, such as: water bottles, straws, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, food, utensils, musical instruments, toothbrushes or lipstick.

HOW CAN MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE BE PREVENTED?

- **Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal disease**
- Meningococcal vaccines are safe and effective

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE MENINGOCOCCAL ACYW135 VACCINE?

- The quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (Men-C ACYW135) vaccine works very well. Effectiveness within four years of vaccination in adolescence is 80% to 85%. It protects against four types of meningococcal bacteria (A, C, Y, and W-135)
- Additional vaccine doses are recommended later for some individuals who have a higher risk of disease or exposure (e.g., travel to certain areas, military/laboratory personnel, contact with a known case)

PUBLIC HEALTH
1-877-464-9675
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york.ca/Immunizations

York Region

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS VACCINE?

- The meningococcal ACYW135 vaccine is safe and generally well-tolerated. Common side effects are mild and short-lived and include headache, fatigue, and injection site reactions such as pain, redness and swelling. These side effects mean your immune system is responding to the vaccine and building up protection. Apply ice to the site and/or take a non-aspirin pain reliever to help minimize pain and/or swelling. Serious reactions are rare
- Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination to ensure there are no immediate side effects. Anyone who experiences serious health effects after they leave the clinic should consult their doctor and notify York Region Public Health

MORE ABOUT THE MENINGOCOCCAL ACYW135 VACCINE (MENVEO®, NIMENRIX®, MENQUADFI® VACCINE)

- As part of the Ontario publicly funded immunization schedule, children are eligible for one dose of the Meningococcal ACYW135 vaccine at no earlier than 12 months of age and one publicly funded dose in grades seven to 12. In addition, individuals born in 1997 or after can receive a dose if not already vaccinated
- As an Immunization of School Pupils Act requirement in Ontario, all students aged 12 and older must be up-to-date with their meningococcal vaccine or have a valid exemption to attend school, otherwise they could face school suspension. If your child received a dose of this vaccine in the past (between ages of 1-5 years) another dose is not required for school attendance, but it is safe and recommended for your child to still receive an additional dose in the pre-teen or teen years
- For immunizations received outside of a York Region Public Health clinic, please report them at york.ca/GetImmunized to update your child's immunization records and avoid potential suspension from school
- If your child missed their meningococcal ACYW135 vaccine at school, they could still receive it at a York Region Public Health community clinic. Visit york.ca/immunizations for clinic information

WHO SHOULD NOT GET THIS VACCINE AT SCHOOL AND SHOULD CONSULT THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine (e.g., anaphylaxis)
- Those who have an illness or take any medication that weakens the immune system
- Those with severe allergic reaction to meningococcal ACYW135 vaccine or any of its specific components or container (e.g., diphtheria toxoid carrier protein)
- Those who have received a meningococcal conjugate vaccine within the past four weeks

As a precaution, if your child has a fever or feels very sick, wait until they are feeling better to get the vaccine.