

Meningococcal Vaccines and the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*

Information for York Region health care providers as of September 28, 2018

Ontario's routine immunization schedule includes two vaccines that protect against various strains of meningococcal disease. Providing the right vaccine at the right time will protect your patients from this potentially serious disease, at no cost to the patient.

- 1. Children under 12 years** old should be vaccinated with **Meningococcal Conjugate C (Men-C-C)** on or after their first birthday. The brand currently used for this vaccine is **Menjugate®**. This vaccine is free for all individuals 12 months of age or older and born on or after September 1, 2003. This vaccine can be ordered from York Region Public Health and is commonly administered by the patient's regular health care provider.
- 2. Children 12 years of age and older** should be vaccinated with Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-135 (**Men-C-ACYW**). The brand currently used for this vaccine is **Menactra®**. This vaccine is free for students in grades 7 to 12, born on or after January 1, 1997. It is also free for patients born on or after January 1, 1997 who did not receive the vaccine through a school-based immunization program. Those born prior to 1997 or children who are not yet in grade 7 are currently ineligible to receive the vaccine free of charge. This vaccine is provided by public health to all children in grade 7 through annual school-based immunization clinics.

Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA), students are required to be immunized with these meningococcal vaccines to attend school, or have a valid exemption on file with Public Health. The exemption process and related forms can be found at york.ca/immunization, under *Immunization Records*.

When vaccinating your patients, it's important to administer doses at the correct time based on the immunization schedule. Students that have received vaccine doses at incorrect times (e.g., too early, too late, or doses too close together) will not be compliant with the ISPA. Following Ontario's routine immunization schedule ensures that your patients receive the right dose at the right time.

Ordering Vaccine

To order **Men-C-C**, contact York Region Public Health's Vaccine Order Line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033** or vaccineinventory@york.ca.

Men-C-ACYW can only be ordered if your patient meets one of the following criteria:

- They received a letter from public health indicating that they are at risk for school suspension
- They required consultation with a healthcare provider before being immunized at a school clinic for reasons such as:
 - Previous serious adverse reaction or known allergy to any vaccine/vaccine component
 - High risk and/or immunocompromised clients who may require alternate dosing regimes
 - Severe disruptive behavioural problem/disability

To order **Men-C-ACYW**, contact a York Region Public Health Nurse at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452** to assess if your patient meets the release criteria. Individuals can also receive **Men-C-ACYW** at a York Region Public Health community immunization clinic by booking an appointment at york.ca/immunizations.

Please see the following table for vaccine information to protect against meningococcal disease.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675

Fax: 905-895-6066

york.ca/immunization



MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES AND THE ISPA

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES AVAILABLE IN ONTARIO

| Available vaccine | Publicly funded schedule | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Routine | High Risk |
| Men-C-C: Menjugate® Meningitec® NeisVac-C® | 12 months – grade 7 (Menjugate®) | |
| Men-B: Bexsero® | | 2 months - 17 years |
| Men-C-ACYW: Menactra® Menveo® Nimenrix® | Grade 7-12 (Menactra®) | ≥ 9 months – 55 years (Menactra®)* |

*Menactra® High Risk Criteria: (A) Functional or anatomic asplenia; (B) Complement, properdin, factor D or primary antibody deficiencies; (C) Cochlear implant recipients (pre/post implants); (D) Acquired complement deficiency (e.g. receiving eculizumab) ; (E) HIV

HOW TO MEET ISPA REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR PATIENTS

| Vaccine | Recommendations | Publicly funded? |
|---|--|--|
| Meningococcal Conjugate-C (Menjugate®) | One dose between 12 months of age and 12 years of age (grade 6 or below) At grade 7, Men-C-ACYW is recommended instead of Meningococcal Conjugate-C | Yes, individuals born on or after September 1, 2003 are eligible to receive one dose. |
| Meningococcal Conjugate-ACYW-135 (Menactra®) | One dose when 12 years or older (grade 7 or above). Note: Menveo® is not publicly funded, but does fulfill ISPA requirements for patients | Yes, one dose is publicly funded for the following groups: (a) Born on or after January 1, 1997 and in grade 7 to 12 (b) Born on or after January 1, 1997 and did not receive the vaccine while in school Note: If five years have lapsed since a previous dose of Men-C-ACYW-135, it is recommended that students receive a publicly funded dose in grade 7. |

HOW TO ORDER MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

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|---|---|
| Meningococcal Conjugate-C (Menjugate®) | Contact York Region Public Health's Vaccine Order Line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or vaccineinventory@york.ca |
| Meningococcal Conjugate-ACYW-135 (Menactra®) | Men-C-ACYW can be ordered if the patient meets one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They received a letter that they are at risk for school suspension • They required consultation with a healthcare provider before being immunized at a school clinic for reasons such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Previous serious adverse reaction or known allergy to any vaccine/vaccine component ○ High risk and/or immunocompromised clients who may require alternate dosing regimes ○ Severe disruptive behavioural problem/disability Contact a York Region Public Health Nurse at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452 to assess if your patient is eligible for vaccine release. |

For Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule, visit:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization_schedule.pdf

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