



Meningococcal B (4CMen-B) Bexsero®

The Men-B vaccine protects against illness caused by group B meningococcal bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*).

Who should get this vaccine? ^{3, 4}

- This vaccine is currently only available free (publicly funded) in Ontario for those 2 months to 17 years with the following conditions:
 - Anyone who does not have a spleen, or whose spleen is not working well.
 - Anyone with congenital complement, properdin, factor D deficiency or primary antibody deficiencies.
 - Anyone who has or will have a cochlear implant.
 - Anyone who has an acquired complement deficiency.
 - Anyone who has HIV.
 - Close contacts of cases.

Is there an alternative to this vaccine?

At this time there are no other ways to prevent this disease. Hand washing and covering the mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing can help reduce the spread of disease. Meningococcal bacteria is also spread by sharing items that come in contact with the nose and throat (i.e. lipstick, water bottles, straws, toothbrushes), so not sharing these items decreases the risk of spreading this bacteria.

Is this vaccine safe?

The risk of a serious reaction or side effect from this vaccine is much less than the risk of meningitis. If you experience any side effect worse than what is listed below, please seek medical advice and notify the health unit.

Common side effects of this vaccine ⁵

- Pain where needle was given
- Swelling
- Redness
- Sleepiness
- Irritability

Higher rates of fever have occurred when Men-B vaccine and other routine childhood vaccines are given at the same visit. Therefore, Men-B vaccine should be given at a separate visit from other routine childhood vaccines is recommended for children up to three years of age.

Who should not receive this vaccine? ⁵

- Anyone with a fever or other illness/infection other than a cold.
- Anyone who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to this vaccine.
- Anyone who has any allergies to any of the vaccine components.

What is in this vaccine? ⁵

| Bexsero® | Also found in... |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sodium chloride | Table salt |
| Histidine | Chicken, Fish |
| Sucrose | Table sugar |
| Aluminium | Breast milk, infant formula |
| Latex | Balloons |
| Kanamycin | Antibiotics |

What else do I need to know?

It is important for you to keep a current record of your child's vaccines. When your child begins school you will be asked to provide a copy of this record to the school, who will forward it onto the health unit.

The health unit is required by law to keep immunization records for all children attending a day nursery or school. Health care providers do not share immunization records with the health unit. This is the parent's responsibility. You can share/update your child's record in the following ways:

Use the secure on-line form on our website – www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline

Fax a copy to 705-721-1495

Mail a copy to: VPD Program, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 15 Sperling Drive, Barrie, ON, L4M 6K9.

Call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520.

References:

Canadian Immunization Guide. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4th ed.). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Meningococcal B Vaccine (Bexsero®): Information for high risk individuals and caregivers. December, 2014.