



# Meningococcal Conjugate ACWY (Menactra®, Menveo™, Nimenrix™)

The meningococcal conjugate ACWY vaccine protects against illness caused by four types (A, C, W-135, and Y) of meningococcal bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*).

## Who should get this vaccine? <sup>1</sup>

- Routinely given to grade 7 students as part of the school immunization program. This provides a booster dose for group C which they should have received at 12-15 months of age, as well as protection against three additional strains of this bacteria.
- This vaccine is only available publicly funded (free) for those in the following high risk groups :
  - 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 HIV.
  - Anyone with acquired complement deficiencies.
  - Close contacts of those infected.
- This vaccine may be recommended for others based on risk factors, however they would have to purchase this vaccine.

## How well does this vaccine work? <sup>1</sup>

- 80-85 % of people were protected, 3-4 years following vaccination as a teenager.
- Effectiveness does wane over time and booster doses are recommended to those who are at a higher risk.

## Is there an alternative to this vaccine? <sup>1,3</sup>

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 meningococcal disease. 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 <sup>1</sup>

- Pain in the muscle
- Swelling
- Redness
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Fever

**Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)** was initially raised as a concern due to case reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) in the United States, following Menactra® injection. Two large studies were since conducted, and 0 cases of GBS were seen during the 6 weeks following over 2.2 million doses given to 11-21 year olds. <sup>1</sup>

**Who should not receive this vaccine? <sup>1</sup>**

- Anyone with an allergy to any of the vaccine components or who has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to meningococcal vaccine.

**What is in this vaccine? <sup>2,3</sup>**

Menactra®	Menveo™	Nimenrix™	Also found in...
Diphtheria toxoid	Diphtheria toxoid		Other vaccines
Sodium Chloride	Sodium Chloride	Sodium Chloride	Table Salt
Sodium Phosphate dibasic, monobasic			Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods
	Disodium hydrogen phosphate bihydrate		Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods
	Potassium dihydrogen phosphate		Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods
	Sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate		Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods
	Sucrose	Sucrose	Table sugar
		Trometamol	Medication- for Metabolic Acidosis

**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](http://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. Part 4-Active Vaccines: Meningococcal Vaccine. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information 2013. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2015.

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