



# Meningococcal C Conjugate (Men-C) Menjugate®

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

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

- Routinely given to all children at 1 year of age.
- Another meningococcal vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine) is given in grade 7, which provides a booster dose for group C, as well as protection against three additional strains of this bacteria.

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

Men-C vaccine protects 97% of infants after receiving their infant dose, however immunity wanes to 68% after 1 year. This is why the grade 7 booster dose is so important.

## **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 <sup>1</sup>**

- Pain in the muscle
- Swelling
- Redness
- Irritability
- Fever
- Headaches
- Feeling unwell

## **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 this vaccine.

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

Menjugate®	Also found in...
Latex	Balloons
Disodium phosphate heptahydrate	Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods
Mannitol	Mushrooms, trees
Sodium chloride	Table Salt
Diphtheria toxoid	Other vaccines
Aluminum	Breast milk, infant formula
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate	Laxatives, food additive-emulsifier, leavening agent for baked goods

### 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.