

# VACCINE FACTS

## 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? <sup>1,3</sup>

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.

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

In clinical trials this vaccine has shown to provide immunity to toddlers and children after at least two doses, and to adolescents/adults after 1 dose.

### 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 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>1,3</sup>	Rare side effects <sup>1</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pain where needle was given</li><li>• Swelling</li><li>• Redness</li><li>• Sleepiness</li><li>• Irritability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anaphylaxis</li></ul>

### Who should not receive this vaccine? <sup>1,3</sup>

- 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? <sup>2</sup>

Bexsero®	Also found in...
Sodium chloride	Table salt
Histidine	Chicken, fish
Sucrose	Table sugar
Aluminium	Breast milk, infant formula
Latex	Balloons

### We ask you to:

**Check:** Your child's yellow immunization card or health record.

**Contact:** Your child's family physician or health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations.

**Share:** Visit our website to share your immunization record with us.



#### References:

1. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 4-Active Vaccines. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2019.
2. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 1-Key Immunization Information. Table 1: Types and contents of vaccines available for use in Canada. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2019.
3. Moore, D. Your Child's Best Shot (4th Edition). Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015