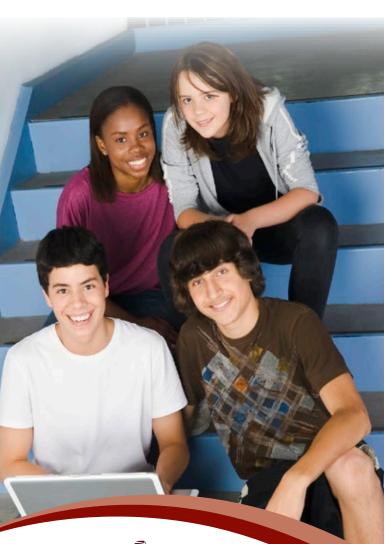
# **Protect your child against** meningococcal disease

For Grade 9 students





#### *Why your child should get the meningococcal vaccine...*

- To protect your child and the people you care about from getting sick.
- To protect your child from getting meningococcal disease. It can cause meningitis (brain infection) and septicemia (infection of blood and organs), and these can result in permanent brain damage, organ failure and even death.

## Who should get this vaccine?

Grade 9 students.

#### Who should NOT get this vaccine?

- Students allergic to any part of the vaccine or its packaging.
- Students with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome.

#### What you should know about invasive meningococcal disease...

- It is an infection caused by a bacteria known as meningococcus.
- About 10 per cent of the population carries these bacteria in the throat or nose with no symptoms, and it can spread to another person through close contact involving secretions (i.e. kissing, sharing water bottles)
- In rare cases, the bacteria overcomes our immune system leading to meningitis (brain infection) and septicemia (infection of blood and organs).

# Symptoms

- Meningitis high fever
- drowsiness
- irritability, fussiness and agitation
- severe headache
- vomitina
- stiff neck
- pain when moving neck
  - rash (not always)

## DID **YOU KNOW?** Meningococcal disease kills one in 10 persons who are infected.

Bacteria are spread through direct contact with droplets from the nose and throat (coughing, sneezing, kissing).



#### Becka Allen (Hampton Middle School)

## Who can get meningococcal disease?

- The disease can occur at any age.
- The highest risk for invasive meningococcal disease is young children and teenagers 15 to 19.

## What you should know about the meningococcal vaccine...

The vaccine...

- is **SAFE** and very effective in preventing disease;
- protects against N. meningitidis types A, C, Y and W-135; and
- will increase protection for those who have been previously vaccinated against type C.

## What to expect following the meningococcal conjugate ACYW-135 immunization...

- Common side effects are pain, redness and/or swelling at the site of the injection, headache, fatigue and fever.
- Severe allergic reaction or other serious side effects are extremely rare.

Please note: As is the case with any vaccine, there is a small risk that a serious allergic reaction can occur. Therefore, students are asked to remain onsite for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is given so that possible immediate reactions can be monitored and treated.

- If your child's immune system is affected by illness, steroid medication or cancer treatments, the decision to immunize must be made in consultation with your family physician.
- If your child has had an allergic reaction to a vaccine in the past, or if you have any questions, please contact your local Public Health office.
- Adverse reactions especially severe or unusual reactions in the four weeks following immunization should be reported to the local Public Health office. Please see your doctor if your child has a severe reaction.
- Further information is available at www.gnb.ca/publichealth

# *How to register for this program...*

- Complete and sign the tear-off section of the brochure. • Return the completed tear-off section to the school even if you choose not to have your child immunized.
- Keep the rest of the brochure for your information.
- Once your child is immunized, the nurse will complete the immunization information on your child's Personal Immunization Record and return it to him or her.

- drowsiness irritability, fussiness and agitation
- vomiting
  - rash

Septicemia

- high fever

- cold hands and feet
  - rapid breathing
  - pain in muscles, joints and ahdomen

#### Consent form for meningococcal conjugate ACYW-135 immunization

#### *How to treat fever and pain...*

- A cold compress on the injection site may reduce discomfort.
- You may give your child acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol<sup>®</sup>) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil®).
- Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or Aspirin®) should NOT be given to children younger than 18 due to its link to Reye's syndrome.

#### What else you should know...

- If your child has a fever or illness other than a minor cold, the nurse may delay giving this vaccine.
- It is important to record any allergies on the consent form.

#### PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE SCHOOL

School		
Grade	Home room/teacher	YYYY MMDD
Student's name		Birth date
Student's Medicare number		Male Female
Daytime telephone r	number	Other daytime telephone number
Allergies		
YES NO	Please specify	
Health problems		
YES NO	Please specify	
my satisfaction. Yes, <u>I AGREE</u> to all	low my child to receive the meni	ngococcal conjugate ACYW-135 vaccination
Signature of parent/quardian		Date
No, <u>I DO NOT AGRE</u>	<i>E</i> to allow my child to receive the n	neningococcal conjugate ACYW-135 vaccination.
Signature of parent/guardian		Date
* Reason for refu Nurses Use Only	sal	
Date	Vaccine Name	Manufacturer & Lot No.
Dose	Route/Site	Nurse's Initials
Personal immu	nization record for mening	ococcal conjugate ACYW-135 vaccine
		YYYY MM DD
Student's name		Birth date
Student's Medicare r	number	
This section is	to be completed by the Publi	c Health nurse
Name of vaccine		
Date immunized		

This immunization record will be given to your child after his/her immunization Please keep this record with your child's personal health files.