

A Guide to Routine Meningococcal Vaccines*

*Guide will not address expanded meningococcal vaccine eligibility for high-risk individuals.

Purpose of this guide

Several meningococcal vaccines are available and offer protection against different strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*. Selecting the incorrect meningococcal vaccine or administration at ages other than those recommended can result in inadequate protection, repeat vaccine doses to meet childcare and school requirements, and ineligibility for a publicly funded dose when the child is most at risk. This guide is meant to assist healthcare providers with the assessment of immunization records for childcare- and school-aged patients.

Available Meningococcal Vaccines in Ontario's Routine Vaccine Program

Antigen Code	Products Available	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> serogroup protection included in vaccine
Men-C-C	MENJUGATE Neisvac-C	Group C
Men-C-ACYW	Menactra MENVEO NIMENRIX	Groups A, C, Y, and W-135

Children one year old to the September before they start Grade 7

RULE #1: Men-C-C is due when a child turns one year old. To meet childcare and school requirements, **Men-C-C CANNOT be given before the child's first birthday.**

Students in Grades 7 to Grade 12

RULE #2: Men-C-ACYW is due when a student is in Grade 7. **The dose is not publicly funded for routine use before the September of the student's Grade 7 year.** Students have until they start Grade 8 to receive the vaccine to meet school requirements.

Deviations	
Possible Scenario	Action Required
<p>Child received Men-C-C or Men-C-ACYW before their first birthday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some provinces and other countries administer meningococcal vaccines before age one. 	<p>Regardless of vaccine history, children must receive a dose of Men-C-C on/after their first birthday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer Men-C-C at a minimum interval of four weeks from any doses given before the child's first birthday.
<p>Child received Men-C-ACYW on/after their first birthday but before starting grade 7 instead of Men-C-C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men-C-ACYW may have been given outside Ontario, because child was high risk, or due to error. 	<p>If Men-C-ACYW was given after child's first birthday but before their fifth birthday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This replaces the child's required dose of Men-C-C. Men-C-C is not needed. Child should receive a dose in Grade 7. <p>If Men-C-ACYW was given on/after child's fifth birthday but before September of Grade 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This replaces the child's required dose of Men-C-C and Men-C-ACYW. Child is NOT eligible for another dose of Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7.

It's the summer and child is starting Grade 7 in September.

a) Child has not had a dose of meningococcal vaccine on/after their first birthday.

b) Child is visiting their primary care provider. Can they receive their "Grade 7 vaccines" early?

a) Administer dose of Men-C-C in the summer. Child must wait a minimum of four weeks before receiving Men-C-ACYW once their Grade 7 school year starts. Remind family to report dose to MLHU to ensure dose is not offered at school clinic before minimum spacing.

b) Children entering Grade 7 in September should not be given their Grade 7 vaccines before the school year starts. The vaccines are not public funded for routine use until September of Grade 7.

Questions? Contact the Health Unit's Vaccine Preventable Disease Team at 519-663-5317 or *email shots@mlhu.on.ca.

*Email is not a secure method of communication and should not include client identifying information.