

## Vaccine Information for Grade 7 School Clinics

### **MENINGOCOCCAL ACYW-135 VACCINE (MENACTRA or NIMENRIX)**

- This vaccine helps to protect against meningococcal disease due to strains (serogroups) A, C, Y and W-135
  - The bacteria can spread by direct contact with oral secretions, such as by sharing food, drinks, lipstick, toothbrushes, water bottles and/or musical instruments, or by kissing
  - Meningococcal bacteria can live in the back of a person's nose and throat without making them sick
  - The bacteria can cause meningitis (a serious illness that causes swelling in the lining of the brain and spinal cord) or meningococemia (an infection in the blood stream)
  - Symptoms of meningococcal disease can be very severe and sudden, and can include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and sometimes a red pin-point rash with bruising
  - This illness can cause death, loss of hearing, neurologic disabilities and limb amputation
  - Students are eligible in Grade 7 to receive this vaccine for free and require a dose of Men-ACYW-135 to attend school in Ontario according to the law (Immunization of School Pupil's Act) unless a valid legal exemption has been filed.
- ❖ A meningococcal-C immunization (e.g., Menjugate or Neis-Vac-C) is a different vaccine which your child may have had as a baby. If your child had one or more meningococcal-C vaccines in the past, the Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine is still required.

### **HEPATITIS B VACCINE (RECOMBIVAX or ENGERIX B VACCINE)**

- This vaccine helps to protect against Hepatitis B, which is a virus that affects the liver
  - Many people who have the virus do not have any symptoms, but they can still spread it
  - The virus spreads from an infected person's blood and bodily fluids through:
    - Unprotected sex
    - Sharing used needles
    - Sharing personal items (such as razors, nail clippers, toothbrushes, etc.)
    - Contact with blood during procedures or accidents
    - Body/ear piercing or tattooing with infected equipment
    - Receiving medical care in a developing country
    - An infected mother can pass the infection to her baby during birth
  - Symptoms can include: weakness, fatigue, headache, vomiting, fever, stomach pain and jaundice (a yellowish colour of the skin and eyes)
  - This infection can last a long time and cause liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer or death
- ❖ Your child may have had this vaccine before, as a Hepatitis B vaccine or as part of Twinrix vaccine. Write the dates on the consent form and if your child needs another dose for full Hepatitis B protection, the nurse can give it to them.

### **HPV (HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS) GARDASIL-9 VACCINE**

- HPV is a family of viruses with over 100 types, this vaccine protects against nine of the HPV strains: 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58
- Students born in 2005 or later qualify for Gardasil-9 vaccine when they reach grade 7
- Almost all cervical cancers are caused by an HPV infection (most commonly from the strains mentioned above)
- These viruses can also cause genital warts, cervical changes, and other types of cancer (e.g. vulvar, vaginal, anal, penile and possibly mouth and throat)
- HPV is spread by skin-to-skin contact and can be spread by vaginal, oral or anal sex; you do not have to have intercourse to get it or spread it
- Condoms may not cover all skin areas that have the virus
- A person can spread HPV even when they don't have any signs or symptoms
- Giving the vaccine prior to the onset of any sexual activity will help to prevent against future HPV contact involving the nine strains
- Abstinence from sexual activity and close skin-to-skin contact can also decrease the risk of HPV infection
- Pap smears can identify early cervical changes and treatment can be started to help prevent cervical cancer

See over for further information

## DOSING OF VACCINES

**Hepatitis B vaccine** (Recombivax or Engerix B) – 11-15-year-old students receive two doses, 4-6 months apart

- If there have been previous doses of Hepatitis B vaccine given, the nurse will assess whether another dose is required

Note: this vaccine is only publicly funded in grade 7 and 8. If your child misses this window for eligibility, there will be a cost associated with future doses.

**Meningococcal A, C, Y, W-135 vaccine (Menactra / Nimenrix)** – one dose, typically given in grade 7.

**HPV9 vaccine (Gardasil)** – students starting this vaccine before they turn 15 years old receive two doses, 6 months apart

- If the student is immunocompromised or starts the vaccine after they turn 15, three doses are required

Note: eligibility for this vaccine is from grade 7 until a student completes high school

### **Immunization schedule for the school year:**

	<b>Hepatitis B</b>	<b>Meningococcal ACYW-135</b>	<b>HPV9</b>
<b>Fall</b>	Dose #1	One dose	Dose #1
<b>Spring</b>	Dose #2 (at least 24 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> )		Dose #2 (at least 24 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> )

The Middlesex-London Health Unit recommends all these vaccines. The Meningococcal vaccine is the only one that is mandatory for school attendance by law in Ontario (as per the Immunization of School Pupil's Act).

### WHO SHOULD NOT GET THESE VACCINES?

- Anyone with a high fever or serious infection the day of the clinic (they can get it once feeling better)
- Anyone who is immunocompromised or has a bleeding disorder should let the nurse know before receiving the vaccine
- Anyone who has had an allergic reaction to a previous vaccine, or is allergic to components of the vaccine, such as:
  - Latex (in Recombivax HB only – a latex-free alternative may be available)
  - Yeast (Hepatitis B and Gardasil vaccines)
  - Thimerosal (in multi-dose Hepatitis B vials only – not used currently)
  - Diphtheria components in a vaccine (Menactra only)
- If a female is pregnant she should consult with her health care provider before receiving any vaccines

### WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER IMMUNIZATION:

- The most common reaction is redness, tenderness, and swelling where the shot was given. This is usually mild and goes away on its own in one to two days.
- Mild reactions such as tiredness, fever, loss of appetite or a headache may last for a day or two.
- Occasionally, people faint after medical procedures such as receiving a vaccine. Working to decrease anxiety and eating something prior to immunization can help to decrease this. Fainting is not considered a side effect or a reaction to the vaccine.
- Allergic reactions such as hives, wheezing, or swelling of the face and mouth are rare. If these symptoms occur, **seek medical attention immediately**.
- Call your health care provider if any symptoms last more than a few days

**Questions? Contact a Public Health Nurse**  
**Middlesex-London Health Unit**  
**519 663-5317**  
[shots@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:shots@mlhu.on.ca)

**If your student receives these vaccines at their health care provider's office, remember to report the dates of immunization to the Health Unit. You can do this by going to**

[www.healthunit.com/immunization](http://www.healthunit.com/immunization)

Follow the link for online reporting of vaccines (you will need your child's Ontario Health Card Number and postal code).