

Immunisation made easy.

School Immunisation Program Information for Year 10 students

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine given as a single dose

Meningococcal B vaccine given as a 2 dose course with a 2 month minimal interval

About	<p>Meningococcal disease is a rare but severe infection that occurs when meningococcal bacteria invade the body from the nose or throat.</p> <p>Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the nose and throat of a small proportion of healthy people (about 10%) and are spread through close prolonged contact. The bacteria are more commonly found in young children, teenagers, and young adults. There are a number of different strains of meningococcal bacteria. Worldwide, the main strains that cause meningococcal disease are A, B, C, W and Y.</p> <p>Most people with meningococcal infection fully recover, but some people who survive can develop long-term health complications including limb deformity, skin scarring, deafness and possible loss of brain function.</p>
How is it spread?	<p>It is not easy to catch meningococcal disease. While the bacteria can be spread via droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person during coughing and sneezing, close and prolonged contact (such as living in the same household or intimate kissing) is usually needed for the bacteria to spread. As meningococcal bacteria cannot live long outside of the body, the infection can also not be picked up from water supplies, swimming pools, bed linen or pillows.</p> <p>After exposure to the bacteria, it usually takes from three to four days to become ill, although sometimes it can be as little as one day or as long as 10 days.</p>
Symptoms	<p>Meningococcal disease occurs in two main forms (or a combination of these two forms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meningococcal meningitis - when the bacteria infect the lining around the brain and spinal cord meningococcal septicemia - when the bacteria invade the bloodstream and cause blood poisoning. <p>In older children and adults, symptoms of meningitis can include headache, fever, vomiting, neck stiffness, drowsiness and confusion, and discomfort looking at bright lights.</p> <p>There may also be a rash, particularly with meningococcal meningitis where there is often a characteristic purplish-red rash which does not fade under pressure.</p> <p>If anyone has the above symptoms, seek urgent medical attention. Early treatment can sometimes prevent serious complications.</p>
Complications	<p>Meningococcal infections can progress rapidly to serious disease or death in previously healthy persons and long-term effects may include limb deformity, skin scarring, deafness or loss of brain function.</p>
Vaccination can prevent disease	<p>Some types of meningococcal disease can be prevented with Immunisation, and these include meningococcal A, B, C, W, and Y.</p> <p>There is no single vaccine that provides protection against all strains of meningococcal disease.</p> <p>This School Immunisation Program is offering free meningococcal ACWY and meningococcal B vaccination to all Year 10 students.</p> <p>Free meningococcal vaccines are also available for 15 to 19 years from Gold Coast Community Immunisation Clinics, your GP or other Vaccination provider.</p>
How many doses?	<p>For teenagers, one dose of meningococcal ACWY is required. Two doses of meningococcal B vaccines are required.</p>
Are the vaccines safe?	<p>The meningococcal ACWY vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against meningococcal disease. Talk to Gold Coast Health, your doctor or call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) if you have any concerns.</p>
What do the vaccines contain?	<p>Meningococcal ACWY vaccine contains the antigens of four strains (A, C, W135 and Y) which are conjugated to a carrier protein.</p> <p>Meningococcal B vaccine contains protein antigen components of meningococcal B bacteria.</p> <p>The vaccines also contain other additives in very small amounts to either assist the vaccine to work or to act as a preservative.</p>
Are there any side effects?	<p>Serious side effects from the vaccine are extremely rare. Minor side effects that may be experienced include tenderness, redness or swelling at the site of injection and, low grade fever.</p>
Why is meningococcal vaccine being offered to Year 10 students?	<p>Some of the highest rates of meningococcal carriage occur among those aged 15 to 19 year olds and this age group can transmit the meningococcal bacteria to people who are at increased risk of infection, including young children.</p> <p>Vaccinating this group will protect these people and help reduce the number of cases of meningococcal disease in the future.</p>

What if my child has already been vaccinated against meningococcal C?	<p>People who have been vaccinated against meningococcal C in childhood are still recommended to receive the meningococcal ACWY vaccine in adolescence.</p> <p>Vaccination against meningococcal C has been included in the National Immunisation Program Schedule since January 2003. From 2003 to June 2008, meningococcal C vaccine was provided in a catch-up program for all children aged 1 to 19 years. This means that some Year 10 students will have received meningococcal C vaccine in childhood.</p>
What if my child has already been vaccinated against meningococcal ACWY?	<p>All children are offered a dose of ACWY vaccine through the school program regardless of having received a previous dose. This will boost their protection during their higher risk period</p>
What if my child has already been vaccinated against meningococcal B?	<p>If your child has already received a valid and complete meningococcal B Vaccination course, there is no recommendation to repeat the course however they remain eligible to receive a free course in Year 10. You can discuss your child's Immunisation requirements with Gold Coast Health, your child's GP or other Immunisation provider</p>
Where can I get more information about meningococcal disease?	<p>Visit the Gold Coast website at: Immunisation Gold Coast Health</p> <p>Queensland Health website at: Meningococcal Disease (health.qld.gov.au) National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance at: Meningococcal vaccines for Australians NCIRS</p> <p>Call: 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)</p> <p>Make an appointment with your doctor</p>
Further Information	<p>To get more information contact: Gold Coast Public Health Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone: 1800 940 750 • Email: admin.immunisegc@health.qld.gov.au • Website: Immunisation Gold Coast Health <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) • Visit the Australian Immunisation website: Immunisation Queensland Health