



FACT SHEET

Meningococcal Vaccine (Men-C-ACYW135)



The Men-C-ACYW135 vaccine helps to protect individuals from 4 different strains of invasive meningococcal disease. **It is a required vaccine for all youth attending school in Ontario.**

Note that babies receive the Men-C-C vaccine at their 12-month visit. This is another meningococcal vaccine and different than the Men-C-ACYW135.

When is this vaccine given?

Part of Ontario's Routine Immunization schedule.

this vaccine is part of the school Immunization program and is offered in grade 7 during school clinics.

Students can receive this vaccine until they graduate, or if born on or after January 1, 1997. Certain individuals with high-risk medical conditions are eligible for this vaccine.

Vaccine type	Age	Vaccine Schedule
Men-C-C	12 months	Men-C-C
Meningococcal	Grade 7-12	Men-C-ACYW135

What is meningococcal disease?

Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) is caused by the bacteria, *Neisseria meningitidis*. Many people (10% of the population) carry the bacteria at the back of their throat or nose without feeling sick. Sometimes, the bacteria overcome the body's natural defenses and cause serious diseases, including meningitis (an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and widespread infection involving blood and multiple organs. The bacteria are spread by direct contact with respiratory and oral secretions (nasal mucus and saliva).

Continued on reverse

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of IMD can vary widely, but include sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, vomiting, stiff neck, and a red/purple, pinpoint rash. Sensitivity to light, sleepiness, confusion, and in severe cases, coma may also occur. Some people die from IMD, and survivors may suffer some form of permanent disability, such as hearing loss, neurological damage, or limb loss.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, most individuals will have no side effects from the Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine; however, it may cause soreness, redness, or slight swelling where the vaccine was given. Headache, irritability, and fatigue may occur in some cases. Severe reactions are extremely rare.

When do I call my health care provider?

Call your health care provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if any of the following symptoms develop within 3 days of getting the vaccine:

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- convulsions or seizures

Who should NOT get the vaccine?



The following people should not receive Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-135 vaccine:

- anyone with allergies to the vaccine or any component of the vaccine
- anyone who previously had a neurological disease called Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)
- anyone with a high fever or serious infection. Vaccination should be delayed until the person is better.

Why is it important to keep a record?

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from serious diseases. RCDHU reviews immunization records for each child who attends a licensed daycare or school on an annual basis. As required by the Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990 (ISPA) and the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA), families need to report immunization records to their local public health unit to ensure that all children received the required vaccines. After any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record, your "Yellow Card", is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

How do I report my vaccination to RCDHU?

Ways to report Immunization Records	
Visit www.rcdhu.com 📄 Immunization	
📄 Report Immunization here accordion	
📄 Online	Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)
✉ Email	immunization@rcdhu.com
📠 Fax	613-735-3067
✉ mail	141 Lake Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5L8
For More Information	
📞 call	613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004
 	@RCDHealthunit

Always include Client's legal name and date of birth on the records you are submitting. The health card number is highly recommended to help us identify the right client file.

Source: Adapted from the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Visit our website at www.rcdhu.com

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"