Targeted WA Meningococcal Outbreak Response in the Pilbara

Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination campaign in the Pilbara
Current: 17 June to 31 December 2019

Background

- There has been a significant increase in the number of cases of invasive meningococcal disease recorded in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (WA).
- Since January 2019, there has been an outbreak identified, with four cases of Meningococcal disease occurring in the Pilbara region; all cases were Aboriginal people and geographically clustered around the South Hedland and Roebourne area.
- In response, several public health measures are being implemented including a Targeted Meningococcal Vaccination Program targeting all Aboriginal people living in the area where the cases have occurred.

Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination Response

Time period:
The vaccination response will commence on 17 June 2019 and extend until 31 December 2019.

Vaccine:
The meningococcal ACWY vaccine will be used. This vaccine protects against 4 groups of meningococcal bacteria: A, C, W and Y. Therefore the vaccine will provide protection against the current cluster strain (sero group C) as well as serogroup W which has been circulating in WA since 2016. The brand that will be used in this response is Nimenrix® (Pfizer).

Population to be vaccinated:
All Aboriginal people aged 6 weeks or over, who reside in the following areas:
- Port Hedland
- South Hedland
- Karratha
- Wickham
- Roebourne
- Nullagine
- Onslow
- Warralong
- Yandeyarra
- Marble Bar

and who do not have documented evidence of receiving a meningococcal ACWY vaccine previously. People who have previously been vaccinated with meningococcal C containing vaccine only are eligible for vaccination with meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

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