



Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

Meningococcal is a rare but life threatening disease. A meningococcal vaccine is available to protect against ACWY strains. This is called the MenACWY vaccine.

What MenACWY vaccination programs are available?

The MenACWY vaccine will help protect against meningococcal types A, C, W and Y.

Childhood program

The MenACWY vaccine is offered free for children aged 12 months to less than 5 years. Children who turn 12 months of age will be able to receive the free vaccine at their 12 month visit. Children aged 13 months to less than 5 years can contact their immunisation provider to schedule an appointment for their child to get the vaccine.

Adolescent program

Year 10 students will receive their vaccination at school. Consent forms will be sent home prior to vaccination day.

Adolescents aged between 15 and 19 can continue to access the vaccine from their immunisation provider until further notice. (Consultation fees may apply.)

Why use the MenACWY vaccine?

Meningococcal disease type W was the type responsible for most of the recent cases in WA in 2017. The MenACWY vaccine protects for type W, type Y, which is also increasing in the community, type C, already part of the national childhood immunisation schedule, and type A, a type rare in Australia. This vaccine does not protect against type B.

Which vaccines will be used?

Two brands of the MenACWY vaccine will be used. Both vaccines, Nimenrix® and Menveo® protect against the four types of meningococcal bacteria A, C, W and Y and are similar in terms of safety and efficacy.

- Nimenrix® can be given as a single dose to persons from age 12 months
- Menveo® can be given as a single dose to persons aged from 2 years.

Nimenrix® will be used for children aged 12 months to less than 2 years and Menveo® will be used for children aged from 2 years and adolescents.

How is the vaccine given?

The MenACWY vaccine can be safely administered in either the upper arm or the upper thigh, depending on the age of the vaccine recipient.

Who else should have the MenACWY vaccine?

Others who should consider having a meningococcal vaccine include:

- people who plan to travel or live in parts of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as parts of Africa, or people participating in mass international gatherings such as the Hajj in Mecca. Some countries require evidence of vaccination for entry visas.
- laboratory personnel who frequently handle Neisseria Meningitis
- household or sexual contacts of a case.
- people who have medical conditions associated with an increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) such as:



- defects in or deficiency of complement components, including factor H, factor D or properdin deficiency
- current or future treatment with eculizumab (a monoclonal antibody directed against complement component C5)
- functional or anatomical asplenia
- HIV infection, regardless of stage of disease or CD4+ count
- haematopoietic stem cell transplant.

People considering immunisation should seek advice from their local doctor or a travel doctor.

Is the MenACWY vaccine safe and effective?

Studies have shown that the effectiveness of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine is between 80 to 85 per cent.

Studies have also shown that the vaccines used are safe to use in children and adults. As with any vaccine, there may be some mild side effects. These include injection site pain, redness and swelling, myalgia, headache, nausea, loss of appetite and fever. Serious vaccine reactions are similar to those of other childhood vaccines and are very rare.

Where can I get vaccinated?

Children aged 12 months to less than 5 years

- General practitioner (GP)
- Local community health centre (metropolitan areas)
- Central Immunisation Clinic (metropolitan area)
- Population health unit (regional areas).

All eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons

- Aboriginal Medical Services.

Please contact your immunisation provider for details or to make an appointment.

Year 10 students

School immunisation teams provide the vaccine in schools.

People who miss school immunisation or other age-eligible people not in school

- Some university health centres (university students)
- General practitioner (GP)
- Local community health centre (metropolitan areas)
- Central immunisation service (metropolitan area)
- Public health unit (regional areas).

Those not eligible for the state wide program may purchase the vaccine privately from their GP or Aboriginal Medical Service.

More information

For vaccination information you can contact your local immunisation provider or public health unit.

To learn more about where to get immunised, visit healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

Produced by the Communications Directorate © Department of Health 2020

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.