

Year 10 School Immunisation Information

Meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY immunisation

- caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcus)
- although rare, meningococcal infection is serious and potentially life threatening
- there are several different strains of meningococcus; A,B,C,W and Y are the most common
- meningococcal B is the most common type of meningococcal disease in South Australia
- meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY vaccines are recommended for adolescents and young adults as they are at increased risk of meningococcal disease
- some people may carry the bacteria in the nose and throat without developing disease (carriers)
- adolescents and young adults have the highest rate of meningococcal carriage and are thought to play an important role in transmitting the bacteria in a community
- spreads through infected droplets or through close contact with contaminated nose and throat secretions
- invasive meningococcal disease occurs when the bacteria 'invade' the body from the throat or nose
- usually causes meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and/or septicaemia (infection of the blood)
- may also cause pneumonia (lung infection), septic arthritis (joint infection) or conjunctivitis (eye infection)
- **invasive meningococcal disease can cause death within hours from onset of symptoms**
- **5-10% of people with invasive meningococcal disease die despite rapid treatment**
- **30-40% of children and adolescents who survive the disease have permanent complications**

Complications include:

- loss of limbs
- skin scarring
- vision problems
- limb deformity
- deafness
- learning difficulties

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

- can protect against meningococcal A,C,W and Y strains
- recommended for all students in year 10 due to their higher risk of meningococcal disease caused by types A, C, W and Y
- is given as a single dose
- can be given at the same time as the meningococcal B vaccine

If your child has previously received a dose of a Meningococcal ACWY vaccine before turning 14 years of age, one further booster dose should be given now.

Common side effects of vaccine

- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- nausea/decreased appetite
- fatigue

Meningococcal B vaccine

- can protect against most of the circulating meningococcal B strains
- recommended for all adolescents aged 15-19 years due to their higher risk of meningococcal B disease
- can be given at the same time as the meningococcal ACWY vaccine

If the student has received any previous dose/s of meningococcal B vaccine before 14 years of age;

1 valid dose received – 2 further doses required at school.

2 valid doses received – 1 further dose required at school.

Common side effects of vaccine

- pain, redness and swelling at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- painful muscles and joints
- nausea/decreased appetite
- generally feeling unwell



Scan to visit
the School
Immunisation
Provider list

Studies show that most reactions are mild. Severe reactions to vaccines are very rare. If you need further information on the safety of vaccines, please contact your School Immunisation Provider or visit SA Health: sahealth.sa.gov.au/SIP