

Meningococcal Conjugate- C Vaccine

What is the Meningococcal Conjugate- C Vaccine?

The Meningococcal Conjugate C Vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine that provides protection against type C disease. The vaccine is approved by Health Canada.

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

The Meningococcal Conjugate-C vaccine is the best way to protect against Meningococcal C disease. This disease can cause serious illness and complications such as death and permanent disabilities (neurologic disabilities, hearing loss, and digit or limb loss). When your child is immunized, he or she also helps to protect others.

How is the vaccine given?

The Meningococcal Conjugate-C vaccine is given as an injection into the thigh or upper arm.

Who should receive the vaccine?

In New Brunswick, the Meningococcal Conjugate- C Vaccine is provided to children through the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule at 12 months of age. The vaccine may be recommended for individuals who are close contacts of a person with invasive meningococcal C disease.

Who should NOT receive the vaccine?

The vaccine should not be given if your child:

- had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine;
- is allergic to any ingredients of the vaccine or its container.

What are the possible reactions after receiving the vaccine?

- Mild reactions such as injection site reactions (redness, tenderness, and swelling), irritability, and fever.
- With any vaccine there is an extremely rare possibility (less than one in a million people) of a life threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. For this reason, it is important to remain in the clinic for 15 minutes after your child receives the vaccine. Signs of this reaction may include rash, difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. This reaction can be treated.

What can be done for reactions to the vaccine?

- A cold compress at the injection site may reduce discomfort.
- For discomfort and fever, you may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or Ibuprofen (Advil®) according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Aspirin (ASA) should NOT be given to children younger than 18 years due to its link to Reye's syndrome.

Any unexpected or serious reaction to a vaccine should be reported to your healthcare provider.

What else you need to know:

- Inform your immunization provider if your child has any health problems or allergies.
- Your immunization provider will give you a record of your child's immunization. Keep this record in a safe place and bring it with you when your child is next due for immunization.
- If your child has any unusual reactions to the vaccine, or you have any questions or concerns, please contact your healthcare provider. The publicly funded Meningococcal Conjugate- C vaccine is provided to children at your local Public health office or healthcare provider.

Further information

For further information contact your healthcare provider, local Public Health office or Tele-Care 811.

Useful websites:

- NB Routine Immunization Schedule <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/Immunization/RoutineImmunizationSchedule.pdf>
- Government of New-Brunswick <http://www.gnb.ca/health>
- Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion <http://www.immunize.cpha.ca>
- Public Health Agency of Canada <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca>