

Infant Meningococcal Vaccine Program Change and Catch-Up Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the preferred Men-C-ACYW vaccine product for the infant meningococcal vaccine program?
Nimenrix® is the preferred product over Menactra® as it is a one-dose schedule for children 12 months and older and does not interact with other vaccines that are usually given at the same time.

2. Why are we using Nimenrix® for children who have not completed their Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) series?

Data show that the Menactra® may interfere with the immunologic response to PCV if these two vaccines are given too close together. So we recommend that Menactra® not be administered to children until at least 4 weeks after completing their PCV series (typically complete at 12 or 18 months) to avoid interference with the response to PCV.

3. What is the dose schedule for Nimenrix® and Menactra®?

Nimenrix® is given as a single dose to children 12 months and older.

For children 12 to 23 months of age, Menactra® has a **2-dose schedule** with the second dose given at least 3 months apart. If the child is 24 months and older, Menactra® is given as a single dose. Those with certain high-risk medical conditions may require additional doses. Refer to the Manitoba Health Health eligibility criteria and the Canadian Immunization Guide for dose requirements and intervals.

4. If a child receives one dose of Menactra® before 23 months of age, can they receive Nimenrix® as their second dose?

When possible, the infant series should be completed with the same vaccine, however if Menactra® is not available for the second dose, Nimenrix® can be provided.

5. If a child is receiving the 4 dose Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) series at 2, 4, 6, and 18 months, can Menactra® be provided at 12 months or should Nimenrix® be used?

To decrease the possibility of Menactra® interfering with the response to the PCV series, we recommend using Nimenrix® if the PCV series is not complete. For children receiving the 4 dose PCV series at 2, 4, 6, and 18 months, if Menactra® is provided to the child at 12 months, the PCV and Menactra® doses would be considered valid. The child would need a second dose of Menactra® at least 3 months after their first dose to complete their primary series.

6. What do I do if a child was administered Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) and Menactra® at the same visit, or within 4 weeks of each other?

If Menactra® is administered within 4 weeks of a PCV dose (so either Menactra® was administered less than 4 weeks after a dose of PCV, or PCV was administered less than 4 weeks after a dose of Menactra®), the dose of PCV would be considered invalid and need to be repeated.

The repeat PCV dose should be administered at least 4 weeks after the most recent dose of either the invalid PCV dose or the dose of Menactra®, whichever is later.

The dose of Menactra® would be considered valid.

7. Does the rule about not administering Menactra® and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) too close together (less than 4 weeks apart) apply to all ages?

Yes. Menactra® should not be provided within 4 weeks (before or after) of a dose of PCV. If Menactra® and PCV are provided less than 4 weeks apart, the PCV dose will need to be repeated.

The repeat PCV dose should be administered at least 4 weeks after the most recent dose of either the invalid PCV dose or the dose of Menactra®, whichever is later.

8. Do other Men-C-ACYW vaccines (ex. Nimenrix®) need to be administered at least 4 weeks before or after Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)?

No. This only applies to Menactra®. Nimenrix® can be given any time before or after a dose of PCV.

9. What are the eligibility criteria for the Meningococcal ACYW Vaccine?

- 12-month program
 - Individuals born on or after January 1, 2020 are eligible to receive a dose regardless of previous Men-C-C immunization history if they are at least 12 months old but < 10 years old.
 - Individuals born between Jan 1, 2008 and December 31, 2019 are eligible to receive a dose IF they never received a dose of Men-C-C vaccine as part of the 12 month program AND are < 10 years old.
- School-based immunization program
 - Individuals born on or after January 1, 2008 are eligible to receive a dose at ≥10 years of age, routinely offered in Grade 6 regardless of Men-C-C or Men-C-ACYW immunization history.
 - Individuals born between 1995 and 2007 are eligible to receive a dose if they have no previous history of receiving a Men-C-C vaccine.

10. Which birth cohorts are included in the Meningococcal ACYW catch-up campaign?

Children born on or after January 1, 2020 are eligible to receive a dose regardless of previous Men-C-C immunization history if they are at least 12 months old. Children between the ages of 0-4 years in Manitoba experience the highest burden of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD), with most of these cases caused by serotype W.



11. What if a child born in 2020, 2021, or 2022 has already received a dose Men-C vaccine (i.e., NeisVac-C™) are they still eligible to receive Men-C-ACYW?

Yes. If a child received a dose of a Men-C-C vaccine, a dose of Men-C-ACYW should be offered after at least 4 weeks has passed since the dose of Men-C-C vaccine.

12. Will Men-C-ACYW still be routine for the grade 6 program as well?

Children in grade 6 will continue to be routinely offered a Men-C-ACYW vaccine as part of the School Immunization Program.

13. Will Men-C remain available?

No, Men-C will no longer be available after March 1, 2024. The Men-C-ACYW vaccine will be recommended for all eligible age cohorts.

For further information and resources for health care providers, see link below.

- Meningococcal (Men-C-ACYW) Vaccine Quick Reference Guide
- [Invasive Meningococcal Disease Protocol](#)
- [Immunization Program Manual for Immunization Providers in Manitoba](#)
- [Meningococcal vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca](#)
- [Menactra - Product Monograph](#)
- [Nimenrix - Product Monograph](#)
- [Meningococcal Disease \(Neisseria meningitides\) | Health | Province of Manitoba \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)