

## **Meningitis**

MENJUGATE (Conjugate C Meningococcal Vaccine) NEIS VAC-C (Meningococcal Group C Vaccine)

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Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord. There are two main types of meningitis: viral Meningitis and bacterial Meningitis. The symptoms of both are so similar that medical tests are needed to tell the difference.

**Viral Meningitis** is most common and least serious. It may be caused by a wide variety of common viruses. Antibiotics have no effect. People with viral meningitis almost always get completely well without treatment

**Bacterial Meningitis** is an extremely serious bacterial infection. It can lead to long-term complications, such as deafness, brain injury, and even death. Bacterial Meningitis requires immediate treatment with antibiotics. This form of Meningitis is fairly rare. The two most common types of bacterial Meningitis are Meningococcal (men-in-go-kawcal) and Pneumococcal (new-mo-kawcal).

People with Meningitis become very sick. It may take 2-10 days for Meningitis to develop, or it can take a matter of hours. Symptoms of Meningitis may include:

Severe headache

High fever

Vomiting

Sensitivity to bright lights

Stiff neck and joint pains

Drowsiness, confusion, or coma

Rash of tiny, red-purple spots or bruises anywhere on the body

How is Meningitis spread?

Meningitis is spread when people cough, sneeze or kiss. It can also be spread through saliva (spit) of an infected person when sharing items such as:

Cigarettes

Lipstick

Cups, water bottles, cans, etc.

Toothbrushes Ø Musical instruments with mouthpieces

Mouth guards

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**How Does the MENJUGATE and NEIS VAC- C Vaccine Work?**

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Menjugate and NeisVac-C protect against group C Meningitis and can be given to infants as early as 2 months of age, adolescents, and adults. Children less than 1 year of age will require 3 doses of Menjugate OR 2 doses of NeisVac-C.

The Menjugate or NeisVac-C vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines.

Who should NOT get the MENJUGATE or NEIS VAC-C Vaccine?

Anyone with a severe allergy to any component of the vaccine

(**Menjugate** - aluminium hydroxide)

(**NeisVac-C** - aluminium hydroxide, tetanus)

Anyone who has had a severe reaction to a Meningitis vaccine in the past

Anyone with a fever over 38.5° C (101° F)

Anyone who has had a Meningitis vaccine in the past 6 months

Anyone who is pregnant or breastfeeding should speak to their health care provider prior to receiving this vaccine

Are there any side effects of the vaccine?

Although side effects are rare, the most common side effects of the vaccine are:

Redness, soreness, and swelling at the injection site

Other reactions may include fever, headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, joint pain, and rashes and should subside in 1 to 2 days

Allergic reactions like hives, wheezing, swelling of the face and mouth are extremely rare, however if these symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately and let the Health Unit know about it

It is routine for you to sit and wait in the reception area for 15 minutes after receiving this vaccine. Please advise the receptionist immediately if you start to feel ill.