



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
300 Carlton Street, Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9
www.manitoba.ca

February 2, 2024

Dear Health Care Provider

Re: Infant Meningococcal Vaccine Program Change and Catch-Up Campaign

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-135. Manitoba is changing the infant meningococcal vaccine program to Men-C-ACYW-135 to offer protection against more serotypes of meningococcal disease for this vulnerable population.

1) Change in Vaccine Product for Infant Meningococcal Vaccine Program

Effective March 1, 2024 Manitoba is updating its recommended meningococcal vaccine for infants at 12 months of age from the Men-C-C vaccine (i.e., NeisVac-C™) to a Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine, specifically Nimenrix®. This is the recommended product as it does not decrease the immune response to the pneumococcal vaccine (i.e., Prevnar® 13) that is also recommended at this age.

You are encouraged to ensure you have a supply of Nimenrix® to support this program change.

- If you have a supply of Nimenrix® on site before March 1, 2024 you may administer it.
- If you do not have a supply on site and a child is scheduled to receive their 12-month vaccines before March 1, 2024, you should advise the parent or caregiver about deferring the administration of the meningococcal vaccine only until you are able to provide Nimenrix®. There is no need to defer the administration of other routine vaccines recommended at 12 months.

2) Meningococcal Vaccine Catch-Up Campaign

Additionally, there will be a catch-up campaign for children born between January 1, 2020 and February 28, 2023. These children should be offered a dose of Men-C-ACYW-135 at their next appointment. If a child born within this cohort has received a dose of a Men-C-C vaccine, a dose of Men-C-ACYW-135 should be offered if it has been at least 4 weeks since the dose of Men-C-C vaccine.

For children that have not completed their pneumococcal conjugate immunization series, Nimenrix® should be offered.

For children that have completed their pneumococcal immunization series (typically complete by 12 or 18 months of age), they may receive either Nimenrix® or Menactra®, as long as it has been at least 4 weeks since completing the pneumococcal series. Menactra® is the preferred product for this cohort because Nimenrix® is the only vaccine that can be offered to clients at the 12 month immunizations when they are also receiving a pneumococcal vaccine.

Provincial resources are being updated and will be posted online as they become available to support these initiatives and will be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/meningococcus.html>.

Kindly return any unopened vials of NeisVac-C™ to the provincial distribution warehouse (MDA) following the Vaccine and Biologics Return Policy and Procedure and include the completed form: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf>.

Manitoba may receive credit for vaccines that have been returned. Any locations that manage their inventory through PHIMS should make sure to adjust their inventory accordingly to ensure it reflects the correct inventory on hand.

If you have any questions, please contact Communicable Disease Control at 204-788-6737 or by email at vaccines@gov.mb.ca.

Please share this update with all relevant colleagues at your facility/clinic,

Sincerely,

original signed by

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Communicable Disease Control

original signed by

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Medical Officer of Health
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