

Vaccine Information for Grade 7 School Clinics

MENINGOCOCCAL ACYW-135 VACCINE (MENACTRA or NIMENRIX)

- This vaccine helps to protect against four types of meningococcal disease.
- Meningococcal bacteria can live in the back of a person's nose and throat without making a person sick.
- The bacteria can spread by direct contact with oral secretions (sharing food, drinks, lipstick, toothbrushes, water bottles and/or musical instruments, kissing).
- Symptoms of meningococcal disease can be very severe and sudden and can include fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and sometimes a red pin-point rash with bruising.
- This disease can lead to death, loss of hearing, neurologic disabilities and / or limb amputation.
- Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine is one dose and is mandatory for school attendance under *The Immunization of School Pupils Act*.
- Meningococcal-C vaccine (e.g., Menjugate or NeisVac-C) is a different vaccine normally given in early childhood. It only protects against one type of meningococcal disease.

HEPATITIS B VACCINE (RECOMBIVAX or ENGERIX B)

- This vaccine helps to protect against Hepatitis B, which is a virus that affects the liver.
- The virus can spread from an infected person's blood and bodily fluids by unprotected sex, sharing used needles or personal items (razors, nail clippers, toothbrushes, etc.), contact with blood during procedures or accidents, body/ear piercing or tattooing with infected equipment and an infected mother can also pass the infection to her baby during birth
- Symptoms can include weakness, fatigue, headache, vomiting, fever, stomach pain and jaundice (a yellowish colour of the skin and eyes).
- Many people who have the virus do not have any symptoms, but they can still spread it.
- This infection can last a long time and lead to liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer or death.
- Students between the ages of 11-15 years old receive two doses, 4-6 months apart.

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) (GARDASIL-9)

- HPV is a family of viruses with over 100 types, this vaccine protects against nine of the HPV strains.
- Almost all cervical cancers are caused by an HPV infection.
- These viruses can also cause genital warts, cervical changes, and other types of cancer in both men and women (e.g. vulvar, vaginal, anal, penile, mouth and throat cancer).
- HPV is spread by skin-to-skin contact through vaginal, oral or anal sex; you do not have to have intercourse to get it or spread it. Condoms may not cover all skin areas that have the virus.
- Giving the vaccine prior to the onset of any sexual activity will help to prevent against future HPV infection involving the nine strains.
- A person can have the virus without any symptoms and can then spread it.
- Abstinence from sexual activity and close skin-to-skin contact can also decrease the risk of HPV infection.
- Eligibility for this vaccine is for all students in grade 7 until they complete high school. If your child misses this opportunity, there may be cost associated with future doses.
- Students starting this vaccine before they turn 15 years old receive two doses, 6 months apart. If the student is immunocompromised or starts the vaccine after they turn 15, three doses are required

WHO SHOULD NOT GET THESE VACCINES?

- Anyone with a high fever or serious infection the day of the clinic (they can get it once feeling better).
- Anyone who has had an allergic reaction to a previous vaccine, or is allergic to components of the vaccine, such as:
 - Latex (in Recombivax Hepatitis B vaccine only – a latex-free alternative may be available)
 - Yeast (Hepatitis B and Gardasil vaccines)
 - Thimerosal (in multi-dose Hepatitis B vials only)
 - Diphtheria components in a vaccine (Menactra only)
 - Tromethamine (in Nimenrix)
- Anyone who is immunocompromised, has a bleeding disorder or is pregnant should let the nurse know before receiving the vaccine.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER IMMUNIZATION:

- The most common reactions are redness, tenderness, and swelling where the vaccine was given. This is usually mild and goes away on its own in one to two days.
- Mild reactions such as tiredness, fever, loss of appetite or a headache may last for a day or two.
- Occasionally, people faint after medical procedures such as receiving a vaccine. Working to decrease anxiety and eating something prior to immunization can help to decrease this. Fainting is not considered a side effect or a reaction to the vaccine.
- Allergic reactions such as hives, wheezing, or swelling of the face and mouth are rare. If these symptoms occur, **seek medical attention immediately**.
- Call your healthcare provider if any symptoms last more than a few days.

QUESTIONS?

Contact a Public Health Nurse
at the Middlesex-London Health Unit
(519) 663-5317

**If your student receives any of these vaccines at their healthcare provider's office,
please report the dates of immunization to the health unit.**

Follow the link below for more information

www.healthunit.com/immunization