

Adolescent meningococcal ACWY vaccine

Meningococcal disease is serious, but you can be protected.

Where can I get more information?

- ✓ Speak to your GP, health care worker or other immunisation provider.
- ✓ health.gov.au/immunisation



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What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease occurs when meningococcal bacteria, commonly found in the nose or throat, invades the body and causes serious disease. Young people are at increased risk of meningococcal disease and are more likely to spread it to others.

The disease can cause complications including permanent disabilities through loss of limbs, deafness and blindness, scarring and kidney or liver failure. It can even cause death.

Although uncommon, meningococcal disease can become life-threatening very quickly. If our young people are vaccinated, they are protected and it also protects our community by preventing its spread.



Getting vaccinated

The meningococcal ACWY vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against four types of meningococcal bacteria (A, C, W and Y).

School immunisation teams provide the vaccine for free to year 10 students (aged 14 to 16 years) at school.

Students will receive a consent form from their school. This consent form must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school before a vaccination is provided.

Is the meningococcal ACWY vaccine safe?

Side effects are usually mild and don't last long. The most common side effects can include fever, soreness, swelling or redness at the injection site. Serious side effects are very rare.

Catch up on a missed vaccination

Young people aged 15 to 19 years who did not receive the vaccine at school, can receive it for free through their GP, health care worker or other immunisation provider.

