

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION

What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis B can cause permanent damage to the liver, liver cancer or death. Symptoms of Hepatitis B infection include fatigue, fever, loss of appetite, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes).

How does Hepatitis B spread?

The virus is found in the blood and body fluids of an infected person and can be spread through sexual contact, sharing toothbrushes or needles with an infected person and through other exposures to these fluids.

An infected pregnant woman can pass the virus to her unborn child.

How can Hepatitis B be prevented?

Through vaccination and by avoiding contact with other people's blood and body fluids.

More about the Hepatitis B vaccine

In Ontario, all grade 7 students are offered the vaccine at no cost. If your child was already vaccinated with a complete series of Hepatitis B vaccine (usually 3 doses as a child or infant), they do not need to be vaccinated again. If your child received less than three doses in the past, they can receive the dose(s) offered in grade 7 to complete their series. If you are unsure if your child was previously vaccinated with Hepatitis B vaccine, your child should receive the dose(s) offered in grade 7.

Who should NOT get this vaccine at a community clinic and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine
- Those who have an illness or take any medication that weakens the immune system
- Those who have been previously immunized with a complete series of the Hepatitis B vaccine
- Those who have a severe allergy to aluminum, latex, yeast or Thimerosal

What are the side effects of this vaccine?

- Some people may experience headache, fatigue, redness, pain and swelling at the injection site that may last about a day. Apply ice to the site and/or take a non-aspirin pain reliever to help minimize pain and/or swelling
- Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination to ensure there are no immediate side effects. Anyone who experiences serious health effects after they leave the clinic should consult their doctor and notify York Region Public Health

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) VACCINE INFORMATION

What is HPV?

HPV is a common virus with more than 100 strains. Some strains of HPV can cause cancers of the anus, rectum, and throat while others cause genital warts or cervical cancer. Many people with HPV do not have any symptoms and can spread the virus without knowing it.

How does HPV spread?

Some types of HPV are spread through sexual contact with an infected person, including contact with genital skin or bodily fluids.

How can HPV be prevented?

- Abstinence from all sexual activity
- Delaying the start of sexual activity (waiting until you are older)
- Safer sex practices, including using condoms (note: condoms do not provide full protection against HPV as it is spread through skin to skin contact)
- Limiting the number of sexual partners and not having sex with someone who has had many partners
- Getting immunized before becoming sexually active is effective to protect against the nine strains of HPV covered by the vaccine

More about the Gardasil 9 vaccine

All grade 7 students in Ontario are offered the Gardasil 9[®] vaccine at no cost, providing protection against nine of the most prevalent disease-causing strains of HPV. Gardasil 9[®] is a two dose series if your child receives their first dose before the age of 15. Three doses of the vaccine are required if your child is 15 years or older at the time of their first dose.

Who should NOT get this vaccine at a community clinic and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine
- Those who have an illness or take a medication that weakens the immune system
- Those who have been previously immunized with a complete series of an HPV vaccine
- Those with an allergy to yeast, aluminum, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80, sodium borate
- Pregnant students should wait until after pregnancy to start or complete the vaccine

What are the side-effects of the vaccine?

Some people may experience headache, fatigue, redness, swelling and pain at injection site that may last about a day. Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination. Anyone who experiences a serious side-effect after leaving the clinic should consult a health care provider and notify public health.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE VACCINE INFORMATION

(MENACTRA[®] OR MENVEO[®] VACCINE)

What is meningococcal disease?

- It is caused by the bacteria Neisseria Meningitidis
- It is a serious illness that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the tissue around the brain and spinal cord) or infection of the blood
- It can cause severe long term health problems, including hearing loss and brain damage
- Serious illness can develop quickly and 10 percent can die from the disease
- Symptoms can include sudden onset of fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and sometimes a rash

How is meningococcal disease spread?

The bacteria can spread from person to person through direct contact with secretions from the nose and throat of an infected individual, from kissing, or using items that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth, such as: water bottles, straws, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, food, utensils, musical instruments, toothbrushes, or lipstick.

How can Meningococcal disease be prevented?

The best way to prevent Meningococcal disease is to get vaccinated.

More about the Meningococcal A,C,Y,W135 (Menactra[®] or Menveo[®]) vaccine

Menactra[®]/Menveo[®] provides protection against four serogroups (strains) that cause Meningococcal disease – strains A, C, Y, and W135. One dose is required to attend school in Ontario for students ages 12 and over and is available at no cost as part of the grade 7 immunization program. If your child received a dose of Menactra[®]/Menveo[®] in the past (between ages of 1-5 years) another dose is not required for school attendance, but it is safe and recommended for your child to still receive the grade 7 dose.

Other meningococcal vaccines are offered to children at younger ages (e.g. NeisVac-C[®] or Menjugate[®]). These vaccines only protect against meningococcal type C and do not offer protection against strains A, Y, or W135.

If your child misses being vaccinated in grade 7, they can still receive Menactra[®]/Menveo[®] vaccine until the end of grade 12 at a York Region Public Health community clinic. Visit york.ca/immunization for clinic information.

Who should not get this vaccine at a community clinic and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine
- Those who have an illness or take a medication that weakens the immune system
- Those who have a severe allergy to diphtheria toxoid
- Those who have received a Meningococcal conjugate vaccine within the past 4 weeks

What are the side-effects of the vaccine?

Some people may experience headache, fatigue, redness, swelling and pain at injection site that may last about a day. Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination. Anyone who experiences a serious side-effect after leaving the clinic should consult a health care provider and notify public health.