

School Immunization Program

Keeping children healthy and in school

PREVENT MENINGITIS

Meningococcal disease is very rare, but it can become life threatening quickly. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in teens and young adults. The bacteria infects the lining of the brain leading to strokes, hearing loss, seizures or blood infection. This vaccine may be needed for travel and/or postsecondary education.

Vaccine Benefits

The quadrivalent vaccine protects against four types of the meningococcal bacteria: A, C, Y, and W-135. The vaccine is 80 to 85% effective for teenagers. Vaccine effectiveness decreases over time. If it has been more than five years since the student's vaccination, a booster is recommended.

Trade Names of vaccines provided by Toronto Public Health

Nimenrix®, Menactra®, Menveo™

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks

The vaccine is safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild. Common side effects include pain and redness where the vaccine was given, headache, feeling tired or unwell for a short time after receiving the vaccine.

In rare cases, serious allergic reactions such as trouble breathing, rash, swelling in the throat and face may occur. Allergic reactions can be treated and are usually temporary. Please stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor for reactions. There are no long-term side effects associated with this vaccine.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine

This vaccine is not for individuals with allergies to the vaccine ingredients or has had a serious reaction to a previous vaccine (containing diphtheria or tetanus toxoid).

As a precaution, delay getting the vaccine if the student has a fever.

For Students that Received or are Planning to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, this vaccine.

PREVENT CANCERS

There are different types of human papillomavirus (HPV). Many people do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms. Human papillomavirus infections cause many cancers of the mouth, head and neck, cervix and genitals.

Vaccine Benefits

Gardasil®-9 vaccine is over 95% effective to protect against 9 types of human papillomavirus. The vaccine prevents infection against seven types of the virus which may lead to cancer and pre-cancerous cells and 2 types that cause warts.

Students under 15 years of age need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system or 15 years and older will need a third dose. Vaccinating with Gardasil®-9 will provide added protection even if the student has already received Gardasil®-4 or Cervarix®.

Trade Name of vaccine provided by Toronto Public Health

Gardasil®-9

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks

The vaccine is safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild. Common side effects include pain, swelling and redness where the vaccine was given, headache, fever, dizziness, nausea, sore throat or feeling faint shortly after receiving the vaccine.

In rare cases, serious allergic reactions such as trouble breathing, rash, swelling in the throat and face may occur. Allergic reactions can be treated and are usually temporary. Please remain for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor for reactions. There are no long-term side effects or chronic medical conditions associated with this vaccine.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine

Anyone with allergies to vaccine ingredients such as yeast or alum should not receive the vaccine.

As a precaution, delay getting the vaccine if the student has a fever.

For Students that Received or are Planning to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, this vaccine.

PREVENT LIVER CANCER

The hepatitis B virus is spread by infected body fluids. This can include improper cleaning of spa, tattoo, medical and dental instruments. Many people with infection may not have symptoms and can continue to spread the infection to others. Some infections can cause permanent liver damage, cirrhosis and cancer. This vaccine is recommended before travel and for some career choices.

Vaccine Benefits

The vaccine is over 95% effective to prevent hepatitis B virus infection.

Students, ages 11 to 15 need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system or ages 16 and older will need a third dose.

If the student has received the full hepatitis B vaccine series, even as an infant, there is no need to get the vaccine again.

Trade names of vaccines provided by Toronto Public Health

Recombivax HB® or Engerix®-B.

Other vaccines containing hepatitis B:

Twinrix®, Twinrix®Jr., INFANRIX hexa®

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks

The vaccine is safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild. Common side effects include pain and redness where the vaccine was given, headache, fever, dizziness, nausea or feeling faint shortly after receiving the vaccine.

In rare cases, serious allergic reactions such as trouble breathing, rash, swelling in the throat and face may occur. Allergic reactions can be treated and are usually temporary. Please remain for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor for reactions. There are no long-term side effects associated with this vaccine.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine

Anyone with allergies to vaccine ingredients such as yeast, alum or latex (in Recombivax HB®) should not receive the vaccine.

As a precaution, delay getting the vaccine if your child has a fever.

For Students that Received or are Planning to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, this vaccine.