

Meningococcal Quadrivalent (Men-ACYW-135) Vaccine

Meningococcal Disease

The **Meningococcal Quadrivalent vaccine** is part of the routine Yukon Children's Immunization Program and protects against four types of meningococcal bacteria; types A, C, Y and W-135.

Meningococcal infection is caused by a bacteria and can lead to life-threatening infections, including infection of the brain and the blood. It spreads easily between people by coughing, sneezing, or contact with spit from an infected individual. Meningococcal bacteria can be carried and spread by people with no symptoms.

The **Men-ACYW-135 vaccine** is given to children in grade 9. Some with certain medical conditions may require additional doses.

Meningococcal infection can cause:

- High fever
- Severe headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Decline in general health
- Rashes

Complications may lead to:

- Permanent brain damage
- Deafness
- Amputation of the hands or feet (10 to 15%)
- Death (10 to 15%)

Why is the Men-ACYW-135 vaccine recommended?

The Men-ACYW-135 vaccine is effective and safe, and the best prevention against meningococcal infection and its complications. Meningococcal infection can be very serious and can be spread by people without any symptoms.

Getting vaccinated against meningococcal helps protect others as well as yourself.

Possible side effects of the vaccine:

The vaccine is safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get meningococcal disease.

Common reactions to the immunization may include redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site. Some may develop a fever, irritability, or discomfort. These are generally mild and last 1-2 days.

Side effects of the immunization are easily relieved by: Applying a cold/damp compress to the site, administering acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperatures 38.5°C or higher. See your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any immunization because there is a rare possibility of developing a severe allergic reaction, which is treatable at the clinic. This happens to fewer than 1 in 1 million people. If it happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number.

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