

Grade 7 School Vaccines

Meningococcal Vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135), Hepatitis B Vaccine, and Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV9)

These three vaccines are offered for free to Grade 7 students in Ontario as part of the routine school-based immunization program.

Vaccination is the best prevention for these three infections. It is important to receive these vaccinations before any contact or exposure occurs.

Meningococcal Vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135)

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial infection that can cause:

- **Meningitis:** an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord
- **Septicemia:** a blood infection that can damage organs

Meningococcal disease is rare, but it is fatal in 1 out of 10 people infected. Also, up to one third of people infected will have a permanent disability.

It is **spread** through droplets in the air from coughing or sneezing or through direct contact (e.g. sharing water bottles, eating utensils, kissing).

The meningococcal vaccine provided in Grade 7 protects against 4 of the most common and severe strains of bacterial meningitis (A,C,Y,W-135).

For more information, read: [Ontario Meningococcal Fact Sheet](#)

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

HPV is a highly contagious viral infection that causes:

- 90% of cervical cancers, 90% of genital warts, and cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, mouth and throat.

About 75% of sexually active Canadians will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime.

HPV is **spread** by skin-to-skin contact in the genital area (penetration is not required) or during genital, anal, or oral sex.

HPV9 vaccine protects against 9 strains of HPV (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58). It is up to 90% effective at preventing most genital warts and HPV-related cancers. This vaccine has been approved for use in Canada since 2006.

For more information, read: [Ontario HPV Fact Sheet](#), [Getting the HPV Vaccine](#), and www.HPVinfo.ca.

Hepatitis B (HB) Vaccine

Hepatitis B is a highly infectious, viral infection that can cause:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Abdominal pain
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin, eyes)
- Serious liver damage; liver cancer
- Death

It is **spread** through contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person or objects contaminated with their blood (razors, nail clippers, used injection drug equipment).

The vaccine protects against the HB virus. The vaccine is 95-100 per cent effective when you receive a complete series.

For more information, read: [Ontario Hepatitis B Fact Sheet](#)



What to expect after vaccination

- These three vaccines are safe and well tolerated.
- Side effects, if they occur, are usually mild and go away in a few days.
- Common side effects include redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site, mild headache.
- Occasionally fever or chills can occur (this means the immune system is working).
- Although rare, serious side-effects (e.g., anaphylaxis) are a risk with the administration of any vaccine. It is recommended that you remain in the clinic area for 15 minutes following immunization as this is the most common timeframe when anaphylaxis will occur.

Who should not get these vaccines?

- Anyone with a severe allergic reaction to any part of the vaccine or its container.
- Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to this vaccine in the past.
- Anyone with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold.
- For meningococcal: Anyone who has been vaccinated within the past four weeks with another Men-C-C vaccine.
- For hepatitis B: Anyone who has completed a hepatitis B or combination vaccine series containing hepatitis B (Twinrix®, Infanrix Hexa®).

If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of a previous vaccine, please speak to a healthcare provider about getting this vaccine.

For additional information you may call and talk with a nurse at 519-383-8331 ext. 3822 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839.

Additional Resources:

- caringforkids.cps.ca
- [Ontario Immunization Well-Child Toolkit - https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/toolkit.aspx](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/toolkit.aspx)

References:

Government of Canada.(2022, July 28). *Canadian Immunization Guide: Part 4 - Active Vaccines*. Retrieved June 8, 2023, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines.html>;