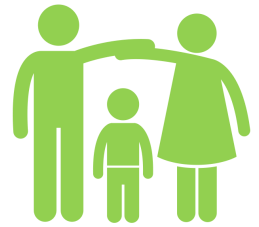


MEN C IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



What is the Men C Immunisation Program?

The Fiji Meningococcal C or Men C Immunisation Program is offering one dose of Men C Immunisation to all children and teenagers who are between 1 to 19 years old. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services aims to immunise 333,876 babies, children and teenagers in 2018 across Fiji.

Why is this immunisation program necessary?

Fiji currently has an outbreak of the deadly Men C disease. Immunisation experts in Fiji and overseas advise that immunising all children and teenagers aged 1–19 years will help stop the spread of this disease and protect children - who are most at risk of getting this deadly disease.

Where can children get immunised?

The immunisation program targets all children and teenagers aged 1-19 years and will be delivered at all health centres, schools and nursing station. The roll out of the program started on 14th May in the Central Division and Ra Sub Division and will continue until the end of June. Immunisation roll out to other parts of the Western, Northern and Eastern Divisions will follow. If your child is not school aged, does not attend school or missed getting immunised at their school, you can get them immunised by taking them to the nearest health centre or nursing station.

How effective is the Men C Immunisation?

The Men C immunisation is very safe and effective and is used in many immunisation programs around the world. Only one dose will protect a child from Men C disease for 5 years. However, it is important to know that there is currently no single vaccine that can provide protection from all types of meningococcal disease.

What are the side effects of the immunisation?

Whenever a person or child gets immunised there may be some minor side effects that include pain at the injection site, not wanting to eat, crying, headache, vomiting, irritability, sleeplessness and fever. If you are worried about any side effects, take your child to your nearest health facility.

Can the Immunisation cause Men C Disease?

No! Only the germ that can causes meningococcal disease will make children sick.

What is Meningococcal Disease?

Men C disease is a rare but serious infection caused by a germ that results in infection of the brain and/or blood. These conditions are very serious and can be deadly.

Who is most at risk from Meningococcal Disease?

Meningococcal disease can affect people of any age group, however this disease is more common in children aged 1 to 19 years. Children under 5 years old are most at risk of getting sick.

What are the symptoms of Meningococcal Disease?

The symptoms of Meningococcal Disease are often different for babies, and older children.

For older children and adults symptoms include:

- fever
- headache or stiff neck/ backache
- nausea
- confusion,
- eye sensitive to light
- vomiting
- at a later stage of the disease a red or purple spotty rash appears on the skin

In babies, symptoms include:

- high fever
- unusual crying
- refusing to eat or drink
- vomiting
- floppy body/drowsy
- changes in sleeping patterns
- seizures or fits
- at a later stage of the disease a red or purple spotty rash appears on the skin

If you or someone you know develops any of these symptoms go immediately to your nearest health facility.

For more information go to *Men C Immunisation* on Meningococcal Disease webpage under Your Health tab on www.health.gov.fj