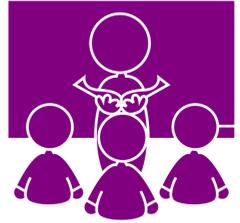


INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS



What is Men C Immunisation Program?

The Fiji Meningococcal C or Men C Immunisation Program is offering one dose of Men C Immunisation to all children aged 1 to 19 years. 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 Men C disease. Immunisation experts in Fiji and overseas advise that immunising all children 1–19 years will stop the spread of this disease and protect children in this age group as they are most at risk of getting sick with this deadly disease.

Where can children get immunised?

For children in school, immunisation teams will visit schools and immunise the students. Consent forms will be provided, and immunisations will only be given to those children with a signed consent form. If any student misses out on their immunisation at school, please inform the student and their parents or guardian that they can go to the nearest health centre or nursing station to get immunised

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 is required to protect a child for 5 years. There is currently no single vaccine that can provide protection from all types of meningococcal disease.

What are the side effects of the immunisation?

As with any immunisation 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 children who experience these side effects after being immunised, take the child to the school health nurse or 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?

Meningococcal 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 1-19 years. Children under 5 years old are most at risk.

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

If any child or student develops any of these symptoms immediately take the child to the nearest health facility.

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