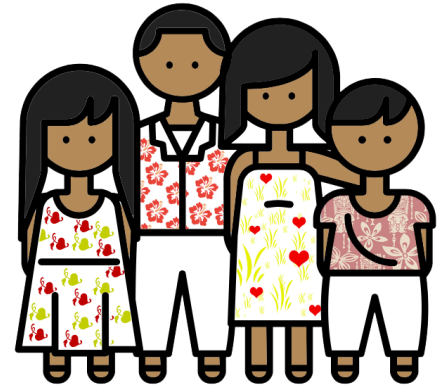


INFORMATION ON MEN C IMMUNISATION PROGRAM



What is the Men C Immunisation Program?

The Fiji Meningococcal C or Men C Immunisation Program is offering one dose of Men C vaccine 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 across Fiji effective 14th May 2018.

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 schools, health centres and nursing stations. 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 2018. Immunisation roll out to the Western, Northern and Eastern Divisions will follow.

For children aged 1-5 years old, and is not school aged, does not attend school, parents and guardians can get them immunised by taking them to the nearest health centre or nursing station.

For children aged 5 -17 years old, and in school, immunisation teams will visit schools and immunise children under parental consent. If any child misses out on their immunisation at school, he or she can be immunised at the nearest health centre or nursing station.

For children aged 18-19 years old, undertaking tertiary level studies, stays home or is working, can get immunised by going to the nearest health centre or nursing station.

Consent forms will be provided to children under the age of 18 years, and immunisation will only be given to those children with a signed parental consent form.

How effective is the Men C Immunisation?

The Men C immunisation is **safe and effective** and is used in many immunisation programs around the world. One dose of Men C vaccine 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 the nearest health facility.

Can the Immunisation cause Men C Disease?

No! Men C vaccine does not contain the bacteria that causes meningococcal disease.

What is Meningococcal Disease?

Men C disease is a rare but serious infection caused by a bacteria 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
- eyes sensitive to light
- vomiting
- at a later stage of the disease red or purple spotty rashes appear 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 red or purple spotty rashes appear on the skin

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

For more information on **Men C Immunisation Program** and **Meningococcal Disease**, visit **Your Health** tab on www.health.gov.fj