



## Meningococcal B (Bexsero) Immunisation

### What is meningococcal?

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. There are 13 serogroups but the most common ones are A, B, C, W-135 and Y. Some people carry this bacterium in their nose and throat without showing disease symptoms and can therefore easily spread it to others through naso-pharynx secretions.

### Complications of Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal infections can progress rapidly into serious illness such as septicaemia (blood infection) or meningitis (brain and spinal cord) or death. Mortality risk is 5-10%. One third of children and adolescents who survive have permanent side effects such as limb deformity, deafness, skin scarring or neurologic deficits.

### Federal Government Program

Currently the National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides free meningococcal ACWY vaccination for 1 year old children and 15 year old children in year 10 at school.

Meningococcal B vaccination is free for some people with very high risk health conditions or are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

### Recommendations

Meningococcal B vaccine is recommended for infants and children under 5 years of age. The Australian Immunisation Handbook **strongly** recommends Meningococcal B for children under 2 years of age and adolescents 15-19 years of age.

### Dosage

For children commencing meningococcal B under 1 year of age they may begin as young as 6 weeks of age, two doses, two months apart with a booster dose after 1 year of age. For children commencing Meningococcal B after 1 year of age, two doses are required at least two months apart.

### Paracetamol Instructions

There is an increased risk of fever with meningococcal B vaccines. Please administer paracetamol 20-30 minutes prior to meningococcal B administration. This should be followed by two further doses of paracetamol given six hours apart regardless of the child having a fever or not.

Dose - as stipulated on paracetamol bottle.

It is best to administer the vaccine in the morning to allow for the monitoring of fever during the day.

For further information refer to the Better Health Channel

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/>

### Payment Options

Parents/guardians who wish to have their child vaccinated with the meningococcal B vaccine need to pre-pay.

For payment options please go to:

<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/people-families/immunisation/types-immunisation>

**Call 9262 6197 to make a booking**

For more information or to make a booking please contact the Environmental Health Unit on 9262 6197

### Details of person to be vaccinated

Immunisation Number.....

Amount to be paid - \$130.00 (incl GST) per dose

First Name..... Family Name.....

Address.....

Suburb..... Postcode..... Phone No.....

Date of Birth..... Gender: Male  Female

I hereby declare that I have read and understood the information attached to this consent slip and wish to have my child vaccinated against meningococcal B.

Signature of consent ..... Date .....

Parent/Guardians name (for persons under 18 years).....

The personal information requested on this form is collected for the management of immunisation in accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act. Your personal information will be included on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register but will not be disclosed to any other party unless required by law. The information may also be used for the purpose of reminder letters or to ascertain your satisfaction with our services. You may access this information by contacting Council's Environmental Health Unit on 9262 6197

### Office use only:

Payment at cashier	RECEIPT PLEASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Account RC 435
Payment online	Reference No. LC_____	Actioned in pathway: