



MeningitisBC.org Society
“Give BC Kids the MCV4 Shot”.



www.meningitisbc.org

May 2, 2019

Dear Parent(s) / Student:

MeningitisBC.org Society is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a MCV4 - MENACTRA[®] vaccine clinic (protects against strains A, C, Y & W-135), and we have acquired funding from the Kitimat Community Foundation to be able to provide this vaccine for **FREE** to **2019 Grade 12 students**, on the following date:

MCV4 - MENACTRA[®] (A,C,Y&W-135) Wednesday, May 29, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.
VENUE: Christ Church Anglican, 739 Gyrfalcon Ave., Kitimat, B.C.

(Note: We ask that those parents/students that have extended medical coverage that covers the cost of this vaccine to do so, as this will allow us to be able to provide this vaccine to a student(s) that does not have this coverage.)

ALL VACCINE CONSENT FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

*Due to the time restraints of obtaining this MCV4 vaccine, we require all vaccine **Consent Forms** as earliest as possible. If your student is unable to attend this MCV4 clinic on May 29, 2019 but still wants to be vaccinated, arrangements can be made with the Save-On-Foods Pharmacist to be vaccinated at a later date either through the Save-On-Foods Pharmacy or the students private Health Care Provider.*

Save on Foods Pharmacist (Cherry Parado) has graciously volunteered to administer the MCV4 vaccine - MENACTRA[®], as well as support from International SOS Nurses to assist with the administration of the MCV4 vaccine.

Any questions can be directed to Janet Munro @ (250) 632-5946. Consent forms and complete student information packages are available through my email: janetmunro@telus.net, or your school office, school website, and www.MeningitisBC.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Munro
MeningitisBC.org
Founder, President, Chairperson

DISCLAIMER:

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Who Are We?

MeningitisBC.org is a non-profit society founded by BC parents who have lost our children to a strain (Y-strain) of meningitis, a disease that could have been prevented by a simple vaccination. MeningitisBC.org was the fighting force behind our BC Provincial Government to implement the MCV4 vaccine in our BC Public Immunization Program starting in September 2016, for Grade 9 students ONLY. However, the BC Government did not implement a “Catch-up” program for students that had already completed Grade 9 or in higher grades, leaving them at risk to contract meningitis. Also, the government removed the meningitis vaccine Men-C for Grade 6 students from the BC Public Immunization Program, leaving another age group 11-14 years’ vulnerable for contracting meningitis. To learn more about our children’s personal stories, or the implementation of the MCV4 vaccine in our BC Public Immunization Program, please visit: www.meningitisbc.org and <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016HLTH0029-000631>

What is Meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis, the most common form of meningococcal disease, is caused by the Neisseria meningitidis bacterium. It causes inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord and/or widespread infection of the blood and major organs. There are many strains of meningitis, but worldwide there are five (5) strains responsible for almost all of the meningococcal disease cases. These are A, B, C, W-135 and Y. Health Canada approved BEXSERO® (4CMenB) vaccine in late December 2014. The Meningitis B-strain has caused meningitis outbreaks throughout the United States at high schools, colleges and universities. Between 2008 and 2015, Meningitis B-strain has caused 108 deaths in United States, and continues to cause outbreaks in 2016 – 2018. **In November 2017, BC Interior Health Department and the BC Centre of Disease Control announced a meningitis outbreak caused by the “W” strain of meningitis. 15-19 year old’s in the Okanagan area were vaccinated for free with the MCV4 to stop spread of disease. Our BC Northern Children were not included, and are not protected!**

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/Pages/Meningococcal-Outbreak.aspx>

Signs and Symptoms?

Meningitis mimics the flu and is often misdiagnosed. Early symptoms begin mildly and can occur suddenly and include: high fever, severe headache, vomiting, stiff neck. The infection progresses rapidly, and if left untreated, a previously healthy young adolescent or adult will die within 24 – 48 hours. The symptoms may appear any time between 1 to 10 days after exposure, but usually within 3 to 4 days.

Even with appropriate medical attention, 10% of people who contract meningococcal disease die and another 20% of survivors suffer from lifelong disabilities such as loss of limbs, organ failure, deafness, blindness, and/or neurological damage.

Who is at Risk?

The highest incidence of disease is seen during our typical “Flu Season”, winter and spring. Most commonly affected are infants and children under 5-years of age, followed by the 15-24 years age group. The median age affected by the Y-Strain in Canada is 49.

Health professionals say that this disease is rare; about 1 in 100,000 contract the disease, but 1 in 5 healthy adolescents or young adults carry the bacteria in their nose and throat at any point in time without showing any signs of the disease. The Carrier state can persist for several months.

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Why Vaccinate?

Many daily and social activities that adolescents and young adults are involved in puts them at a greater risk of spreading or contracting meningococcal disease, such as: living in close quarters, college/university dormitories; being in crowded situation for prolonged periods of time; staying out late and having irregular sleeping patterns, which weakens the immune system; besides playing sports, carelessness with mouth guards, musical instruments, sharing water bottles, utensils, food, drinks, cosmetics, cigarettes, kissing, coughing and sneezing. The bacterium is spread through droplets of secretions from the nose and throat.

A “booster dose” of MCV4 vaccine is recommended for adolescents aged 16-18 years to ensure that circulating antibodies are present during the peak years (15-27 years) for invasive meningococcal disease. Vaccinating this largest carrier group will prevent and protect against spread of the disease.

Information about Meningitis Vaccines and Possible vaccine reactions – via Link to HealthLink BC <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile23b.stm> - HealthLinkBC Meningococcal Quadrivalent Vaccines

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile23c.stm> - HealthLinkBC Meningococcal B (Men-B) Vaccine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuhFp22YbpM> - Youtube Video: The Fastest Hour

<https://globalnews.ca/news/3767896/edmonton-teacher-retains-sense-of-humour-after-losing-legs-and-thumb-to-rare-infection/> - Christian Zyp, Drama Teacher, Actor & Radio DJ – contracts meningitis.

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