

# MENINGOCOCCAL ACWY PROGRAM



Meningococcal  
vaccination



Year 10 students  
accessed  
through school



15-19 year olds  
accessed  
through GP



Free vaccination

## What is Meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a rare but severe infection that occurs when meningococcal bacteria invade the body from the nose or throat. There are a number of different strains of meningococcal bacteria with the most common strains that cause the disease being A, B, C, W and Y.

While most people with meningococcal infection fully recover, some people who survive can develop long-term health complications such as deafness, limb deformity, skin scarring and possible loss of brain function. In 2016, Queensland saw a rise in the number of both meningococcal W and Y cases and there were more meningococcal W cases reported nation-wide than meningococcal B cases.



## What is the Meningococcal ACWY program?

The Queensland Government is offering a free meningococcal ACWY vaccination to all year 10 students through the School Immunisation Program (SIP) and to young people aged 15-19 years of age through their doctor or usual immunisation provider.

## Who is eligible?

Students in Year 10 in 2017. Young people aged 15-19 years (at the time of vaccination).

## Why 15-19 year olds?

Meningococcal bacteria is more commonly found in teenagers and young adults with some of the highest rates of meningococcal carriage occurring among 15-19 year olds who can transmit the bacteria to people who are at increased risk of infection. By vaccinating this group, it will immediately protect both individuals and the wider community over time.

## Is the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine safe?

The meningococcal ACWY vaccine is both safe and effective. Serious side effects from the vaccine are rare. Minor side effects may include tenderness, redness or swelling in the area of the injection and, low grade fever. If you have any questions or concerns make an appointment with your doctor today.

## Where can 15 to 19 year olds get the vaccine?

The meningococcal ACWY vaccine will be available either through the School Immunisation Program if they are in year 10 or through their usual vaccine provider such as their GP. Parents and young adults may wish to call their immunisation provider prior to booking the appointment to see if the vaccine is in stock and although the vaccine is free, doctors may charge a consultation fee.

## Find out more



'Meningococcal vaccination 15 - 19'



13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)



Make an appointment with your GP



**phn**

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND,  
WIDE BAY, SUNSHINE COAST

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