

# Meningococcal Disease



Meningococcal infection (or meningococcal disease) is caused by a bacteria called meningococcus. Meningococcal infection is uncommon, and not easily spread, but it can cause serious complications, including:

- Meningitis – an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord
- Septicaemia – an infection of the blood
- Infections in other parts of the body, such as the joints.

Meningococcal infections can start suddenly and become extremely serious very quickly. They can cause life-long disabilities, or death in about one in 10 people affected.

Immunisation against meningococcal bacteria is the best protection against meningococcal disease.

## Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is provided as a single dose, free through the National Immunisation Program for:

- Children at 12 months of age
- Adolescents aged approximately 14 to 16 years through school based immunisation programs and those aged 15-19 as part of an ongoing catch up program
- People with particular medical risk conditions

## Meningococcal B (Bexsero Vaccine)

Moira Shire Council Immunisation Service can provide Meningococcal B vaccine at a cost of \$155 per dose without a prescription.

- Can be given to babies from 6 weeks of age. The number of doses required varies with age
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under 2 are funded to receive this vaccine through the National Immunisation Program

## Paracetamol

**Paracetamol is recommended 30 minutes before, or as soon as practicable after meningococcal B vaccine administration, for children younger than two years of age. Two further doses of paracetamol are recommended six hours apart, regardless of whether fever is present.**

For further information on meningococcal disease and immunisation:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-services/meningococcal-immunisation-service-0>

**For inquiries or to schedule an appointment contact Moira Shire Council Immunisation Team on 5871 9222.**