



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health
300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 3M9

October 23, 2025

RE: Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) Outbreak Update and Response

Dear Health Care Provider,

Manitoba continues to see increased cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) serogroup W. Manitoba typically sees 6 IMD cases from all serogroups annually. For serogroup W, in 2024 there were 25 confirmed cases. In 2025 to date, there have been 21 confirmed cases, with 10 of these cases occurring since July 2025. Cases have not been epidemiologically linked and have occurred in all regions, with the highest rates in the Northern Health region. Current epidemiological data indicates a disproportionate number of individuals from Indigenous communities being impacted, particularly infants under 12 months of age.

Expanded Vaccine Eligibility

As a result of these epidemiologic trends during this outbreak, vaccine eligibility for the meningococcal ACYW (Men-C-ACYW) vaccine is being expanded to directly protect infants living in or closely connected to Indigenous communities.

Effective immediately, in addition to the routine meningococcal immunizations offered at 12 months and Grade 6, up to two additional doses can be offered to children aged 6 weeks to under 12 months of age who:

- live in an Indigenous community within Manitoba; or
- travel regularly to Indigenous communities in Manitoba; or
- have household visitors from Indigenous communities in Manitoba.

The dosing schedule of Nimenrix® Men-C-ACYW vaccine for those under 12 months of age is dependent on age at immunization. For Nimenrix®, the recommended dosage and interval is below. The booster dose identified is the dose offered at 12 months of age as part of the routine immunization schedule.

Age Group	Primary Dose(s)	Booster Dose
Infants from 6 weeks to less than 6 months of age	Two doses, each of 0.5 mL, with the first dose given from 6 weeks of age, and with an interval of 2 months between doses	At 12 months of age
Unvaccinated infants from 6 months to less than 12 months of age	One dose of 0.5 mL given from 6 months of age	At 12 months of age with a minimum interval of at least 2 months after the primary dose

Meningococcal Vaccine Catch-Up Reminder

In addition to infants, cases of IMD are being seen across multiple age groups. Therefore, to provide direct protection to those immunized, and indirect protection to others through the elimination of carriage, providers should also review immunization records and provide catch-up immunizations for all eligible patients who are due or overdue for routine meningococcal vaccinations. Increasing vaccine coverage within all eligible cohorts is key to help reduce transmission and prevent further cases across the broader population.

For reference, the routine eligibility criteria for individuals 12 months of age and older for Men-C-ACYW immunizations is as follows:

- Under 10 Years of Age
 - Individuals born on or after January 1, 2020 are eligible to receive a dose regardless of previous Men-C-C immunization history if they are at least 12 months old but < 10 years old.
 - Individuals born between Jan 1, 2008 and December 31, 2019 are eligible to receive a dose IF they never received a dose of Men-C-C vaccine as part of the 12 month program AND are < 10 years old.
- 10 Years of Age and older
 - Individuals born on or after January 1, 2008 are eligible to receive a dose at ≥10 years of age, routinely offered in Grade 6, regardless of Men-C-C or Men-C-ACYW immunization history.
 - Individuals born between 1995 and 2007 are eligible to receive a dose if they have no previous history of receiving a Men-C-C vaccine.

Health care providers should continue to maintain a high index of suspicion for IMD and consider beginning early treatment with appropriate antibiotics after obtaining cultures in suspect cases to reduce the severity of illness and prevent fatalities.

For more information on the Meningococcal Vaccine Program and the number of confirmed IMD cases in Manitoba, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/meningococcus.html.

To see the eligibility criteria for Manitoba's Immunization Program, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html.

If you have any questions, please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you for your support in increasing immunization coverage rates.

Sincerely,



Richard Baydack, PhD
Executive Director
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control



Dr. Carol Kurbis, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health,
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