

Queensland Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Program

Information for parents/guardians of students in Year 10

Commencement of the Queensland Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Program

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious infection caused by bacteria that enter the body through the nose or throat. These bacteria are more commonly found in teenagers and young adults.

While most people recover fully from a meningococcal infection, some individuals can experience lasting health issues like limb deformities, skin scars, hearing problems, and possible loss of brain function. About one-third of children and teenagers who survive meningococcal disease develop permanent complications.

There are different types (strains) of meningococcal bacteria. Thanks to improved vaccinations against some types, the meningococcal B strain is now becoming the leading cause of illness and death from this disease in Queensland.

Queensland Year 10 students are routinely offered free vaccination to protect against meningococcal strains A, C, W, and Y through the Queensland School Immunisation Program. This vaccine is given in a single dose.

Commencing in the 2024 school year, the Queensland School Immunisation Program will also provide Year 10 students vaccination against the meningococcal B strain, which will require two doses.

Previously, funded meningococcal B vaccine was only available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and individuals with specific medical risk factors. However, the Queensland MenB Vaccination Program will now make the meningococcal B vaccine available free of charge to all eligible infants, children, and adolescents in Queensland.

Parents of Year 10 students will receive a package containing a consent form and information about the vaccines offered in the Queensland School Immunisation Program. It is important to read this information and discuss it with your child. Once you are comfortable, **please complete, sign, and return the consent form to your child's school.**

The consent form can also be downloaded at www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/school-based-vaccination-program Children will not be vaccinated unless a signed consent form has been returned.

People with [certain medical conditions](#) associated with an increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease (such as a deficiency of complement components, functional or anatomical asplenia, HIV, or recipients of a haematopoietic stem cell transplant) are recommended to receive extra (booster) doses of meningococcal vaccines. Please discuss this with your doctor.

For more information, visit the following links:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/meningococcal-b>

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/33/95/meningococcal-disease>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/adolescents>

<https://www.vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au/who-should-get-vaccinated-and-when/children-and-adolescents>