

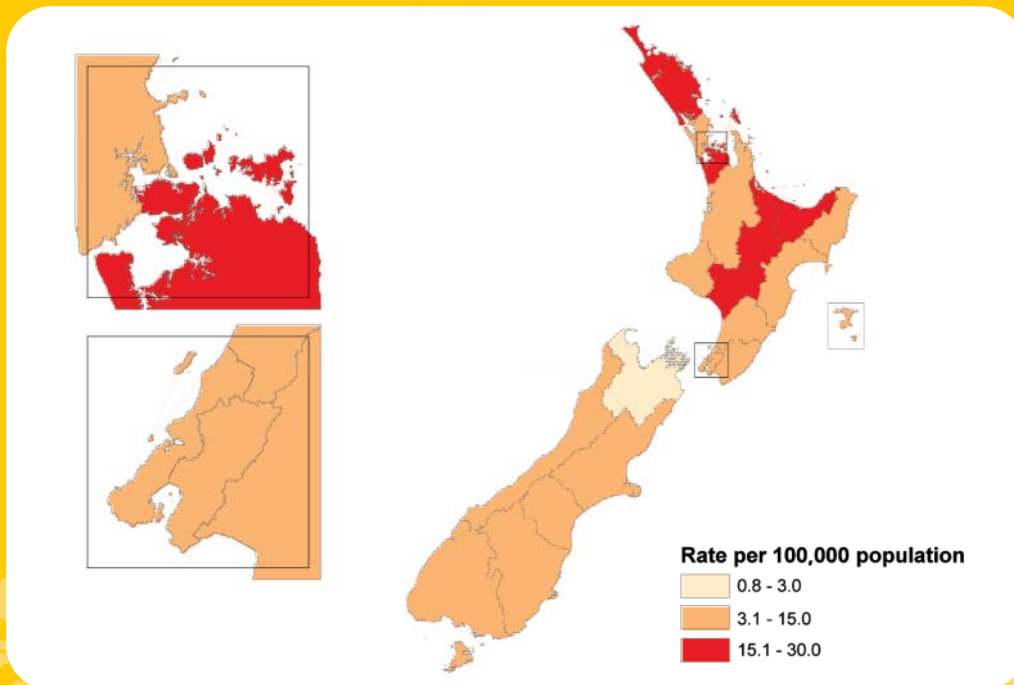


THE MENINGOCOCCAL B IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME EDUCATIONAL FLIPCHART

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The Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme

Meningococcal disease rates per 100,000 by District Health Board, 2003

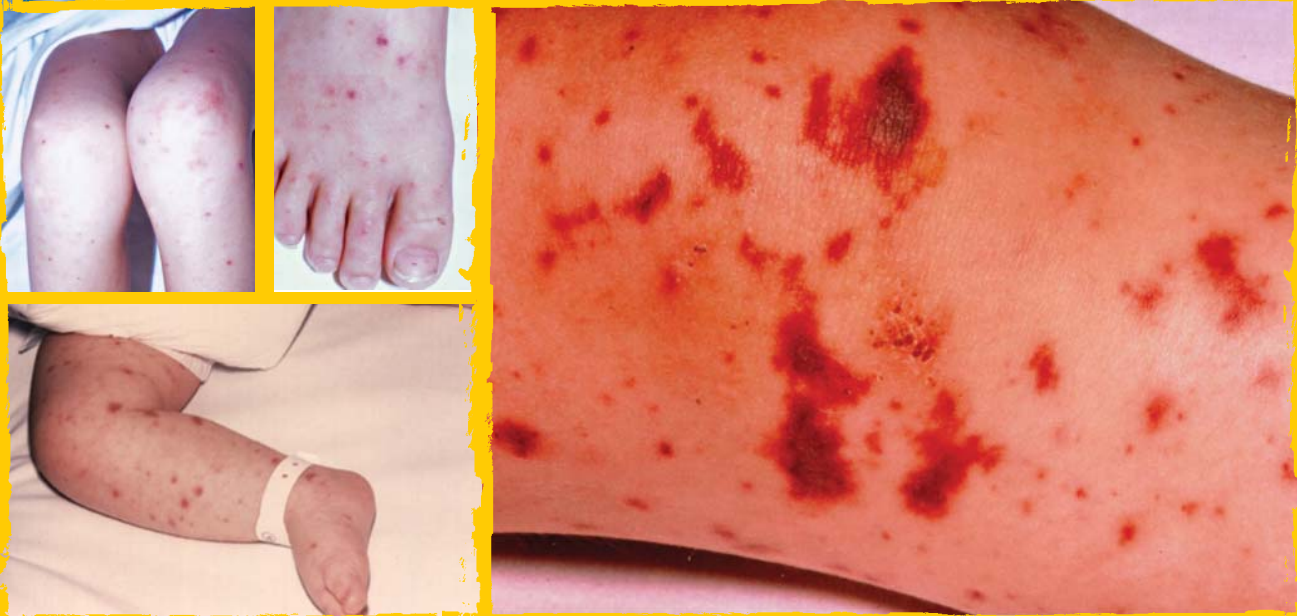


The Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme

- New Zealand has one of the highest rates of meningococcal B disease in the developed world.
- Meningococcal disease can affect anyone but those under 20 years of age are at greater risk, with children under five years being most at risk.
- The Ministry of Health is offering free immunisation to all babies, children and young people from 0-19 years to protect them from the most common strain of meningococcal B disease circulating in New Zealand.
- As supplies of the vaccine are limited the Programme will be delivered first to those with the greatest risk of contracting meningococcal disease, ie, from north to south in the North Island and south to north in the South Island.

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Meningococcal disease



Rash in severe illness (septicaemia)

Meningococcal disease

- Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection. It causes severe illness including:
 - meningitis (an infection of membranes that cover the brain)
 - septicaemia (a serious infection in the blood).
- In its early stages meningococcal disease may look like a case of influenza and is difficult to diagnose. It can progress very quickly.
- Prompt treatment with antibiotics may prevent death or permanent disability such as damage to the brain, deafness or loss of limbs.
- For every 100 people who contract meningococcal disease:
 - four will die
 - twenty will be left with some degree of serious disability, such as brain damage, deafness, loss of limbs or damaged skin
 - others will be left with learning or behavioural difficulties.

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How meningococcal disease may be spread



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How meningococcal disease may be spread

- Around one in five people carry meningococcal bacteria in their nose and throat without getting sick.
- The bacteria may be spread through close contact such as:
 - living in the same household
 - sharing food and drink
 - kissing
 - coughing and sneezing.
- People will still need to watch out for signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease.

Signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease

A baby or child may:



- have a fever



- be crying or unsettled



- refuse drinks or feeds



- vomit



- be sleepy, floppy or harder to wake



- dislike bright lights



- have a rash or spots.

An adult may:



- have a fever or a headache



- have a stiff neck



- have joint pain and aching muscles.



- vomit



- be sleepy, confused, delirious or unconscious



- dislike bright lights



- have a rash or spots.

Signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease

A baby or child may have some of these symptoms:

- a fever
- be crying or unsettled
- refuse drinks or feeds
- vomit
- be sleepy, floppy or harder to wake
- dislike bright lights
- a rash or spots.

An older child or adult may have some of these symptoms:

- a fever or a headache
- a stiff neck
- joint pain and aching muscles
- vomit
- be sleepy, confused or delirious or unconscious
- dislike bright lights
- a rash or spots.

Please convey the following *Don't wait – take action* message.

If you or someone in your household has one or more of these symptoms:

- ring a doctor or medical centre right away – whether it is night or day
- say what the symptoms are. Show even one spot to your doctor
- **insist** on immediate action - **don't be put off** – a life may be at risk
- if a person has been cleared by a doctor, they should still be watched
- if they get worse go straight back to a doctor
- do not leave them alone
- have a plan of action if you do not have a phone or car.

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Protection by the MeNZB™ vaccine



Protection by the MeNZB™ vaccine

- There are several different strains of bacteria which cause meningococcal disease. A new vaccine called MeNZB™ has been developed to protect children and young people against the strain of meningococcal B disease that is causing the epidemic in New Zealand.
- Protection will improve after each dose but all three doses of the MeNZB™ vaccine are needed to ensure adequate protection against meningococcal B disease.
- The MeNZB™ vaccine will not protect against other strains of meningococcal disease. So people still need to watch out for signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease even if a person has been vaccinated.
- We expect that most people will be protected but the vaccine may not protect every person who receives the vaccinations. Protection is expected to last for a few years but the exact period is unknown.

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The safety of MeNZB™ vaccine



The safety of MeNZB™ vaccine

- As there are no live bacteria in the vaccine, MeNZB™ vaccine cannot cause meningococcal B disease.
- It is made by using only parts of meningococcal B bacteria.
- It does not contain any blood products or the preservative thiomersal.
- It contains:
 - aluminium hydroxide to assist the body's protective response
 - a stabiliser (histidine)
 - normal saline.
- There are no genetically modified organisms in the MeNZB™ vaccine.
- This vaccine has been safely used in clinical trials in Auckland with a range of age groups, including babies and adults.
- It has been manufactured to international standards.
- Similar vaccines, which have been used overseas, eg, in Norway, have shown that serious reactions are unlikely but no vaccine is totally without reactions.

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Vaccination with MeNZB™ vaccine



Vaccination with MeNZB™ vaccine

- MeNZB™ is being offered free to everyone in New Zealand aged 0-19 years.
- Everyone in New Zealand who is aged 0-19 years on the day of their first MeNZB™ vaccination is eligible to receive the full course of MeNZB™.
- Every person who takes part in the Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme will receive three doses of the MeNZB™ vaccine, with an interval of about six weeks between each injection.
- The MeNZB™ vaccine will be given to:
 - infants and young children as an injection in the upper thigh
 - older children and young people as an injection in the upper arm.
- Under-five-year-olds and young people who have left school will be vaccinated by a practice nurse or general practitioner at:
 - their doctor's medical centre
 - a marae clinic
 - a student health service.
- Most school students will be vaccinated by public health nurses in school-based campaigns.

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Reasons for the vaccine not being given



Reasons for the vaccine not being given

MeNZB™ vaccine should not be given to anyone who:

- has an acute illness or high fever on the day of immunisation
- has had a previous allergic reaction to a vaccine
- is pregnant.

MeNZB™ vaccine may not be given to someone who has:

- had a serious reaction to an immunisation
- a serious medical condition, eg, haemophilia, epilepsy or is immune compromised
- severe allergies to food or medicines.

Possible reactions to MeNZB™ vaccine

Mild	Type of reactions	What to do
	Temporary redness, pain or swelling where the injection was given.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a cool wet cloth or ice pack (wrapped in a towel) on the place where the injection was given. Avoid rubbing the injection site as this will make the reaction worse.
	A headache, nausea, feeling unwell, muscle and joint pain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider Paracetamol for the pain.
	<p>A slight fever, ie, 37.5°C - 39°C</p> <p>Babies and toddlers may feel drowsy or irritable.</p> <p>Older children may feel tired and not want to play.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider Paracetamol to lower the fever. Drink plenty of fluids. Give extra fluids to drink (eg, water or more breastfeeds for infants).

Serious	Type of reactions	What to do
	A high fever, ie, over 39°C. This is very rare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your doctor. Give extra fluids to drink (eg, water or more breastfeeds for infants). Use Paracetamol to lower the fever.



These are normal side effects and may last for a few days.

Possible reactions to MeNZB™ vaccine

- There may be a mild reaction after vaccination which could last for a day or so. This includes temporary redness, pain or swelling where the injection was given, headache, nausea, malaise, muscle and joint pain, a slight fever, feeling slightly drowsy or irritable.
- A high fever, ie, over 39° C is a more serious reaction. This is very rare.
- Millions of doses of vaccine similar to MeNZB™ vaccine have been used around the world. Serious side effects after receiving MeNZB™ vaccine are very rare.
- Everyone who receives the MeNZB™ vaccine will be asked to stay at the clinic for 20 minutes after the vaccine is given. This is to ensure that treatment is at hand if a very rare allergic reaction called anaphylaxis occurs.
- Drugs given by a doctor or nurse to treat this reaction work quickly and safely.
- In trials of the vaccine, some children had a day off school after the first vaccination, with fewer having a day off after the second or third dose.
- There were no children with long-term effects.
- No vaccine is totally without reactions. However the risk from meningococcal B disease is much higher than the risk of a serious reaction from the MeNZB™ vaccine.

The National Immunisation Register



The National Immunisation Register

The National Immunisation Register is a computerised information system.

The following information about everyone who is immunised or does not consent to be immunised with MeNZB™ vaccine will be held on the National Immunisation Register:

- their name, address, date of birth, gender, ethnicity and National Health Index (NHI) number (given to everyone at birth)
- their family doctor
- the MeNZB™ vaccinations they have received (or declined)
- parent/guardian contact details.

The information on the National Immunisation Register will be used to:

- record how many babies, children and young people have been immunised and how many doses they have received
- provide additional long term assurance that the vaccine remains safe
- assist in measuring that the vaccine is protecting against meningococcal B disease
- not follow up those who have not consented to MeNZB™ immunisation.

For those who do not want to be immunised and do not want this information recorded on the National Immunisation Register it is possible to 'opt off.' Only their NHI number, date of birth, District Health Board, date of 'opt off' and any MeNZB™ immunisations recorded before they opted-off will be kept on the register.

The use of and access to the information is covered by the Health Information Privacy Code so only authorised health professionals can see, use or change information on the National Immunisation Register. A person who wishes to see this information, correct any details or has any questions will need to contact their nurse or doctor.

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Choose to be immunised now



Choose to be immunised now

- The Ministry of Health is encouraging everyone in New Zealand aged 0-19 years to be immunised against meningococcal B disease.
- Do you have any questions or concerns?