

Immunization Helps Reduce Your Child’s Risk of Invasive Meningococcal Disease

Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) is an infection caused by a bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*, also called “meningococcus” or *N. meningitidis*. Meningococcal disease is not common, but it is life-threatening when it occurs.

Meningitis B is a form of IMD caused by *N. meningitidis* group B bacteria.

In Canada, there are vaccines that are routinely administered to school-age children in most Canadian jurisdictions to help prevent IMD caused by the A, C, Y, and/or W135 groups of meningococcus.

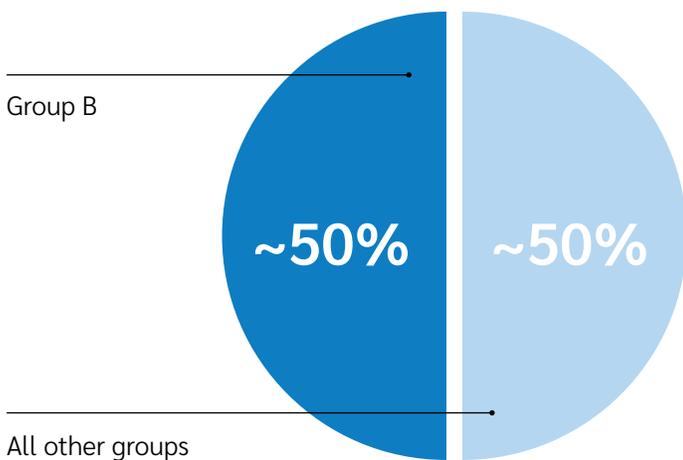
Two vaccines prevent IMD caused by the group B bacteria (meningitis B):

- ✓ TRUMENBA meningococcal B vaccine
- ✓ BEXSERO meningococcal B vaccine

However, these vaccines are currently NOT provided by routine immunization programs here in Canada.

Why is this important for parents to know?

Group B: The most common cause of IMD in Canada (2012–2019).



Parents may assume that their child has been vaccinated against all five groups most commonly associated with IMD, but it’s important to be sure. **Ask your child’s health care provider about meningitis B vaccination.**

Although IMD is not common, it can cause life-threatening complications and even death. Those aged 15 to 24 are at elevated risk for IMD because of their lifestyle, such as living in dorms while attending university, sharing food and utensils with friends, and being in crowded social situations where the infection may easily spread.

You can help protect your child by asking about their immunizations.

Please use the questions below in discussion with your child’s health care provider to help start the conversation about meningitis B vaccination:

Questions

1. My child received a meningitis vaccine in school. Do you recommend they also receive a meningitis B vaccine?
2. My son/daughter is [age]. Are they considered to be at risk for meningitis B?
3. How can I help protect my child against all major groups of meningococcal bacteria (A, B, C, Y, and W135)?