

# You and the Meningococcal C Conjugated Vaccine

Yukon high school students are being offered the free meningococcal C conjugated vaccine to protect them against Group C meningococcal infections. The vaccine is also available to post-secondary students who return to the Yukon on “breaks” from their studies.

## Group C Meningococcal infections WILL cause:

- High fever
- Severe headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Decline in general health
- Rashes

## Infections can have the following complications:

- Permanent brain damage
- Amputation of the hands or feet (10 to 15%)
- Death (10 to 15%)



## Why consider the Meningococcal C conjugated vaccine?

Group C meningococcal infections include meningitis, which is an infection of the brain membrane, and meningococcemia, which is an infection of the blood. This type of infection spreads easily through close contact like kissing, coughing and sneezing or sharing food, water bottles, straws, toothbrushes, etc.

The Meningococcal C conjugated vaccine is very effective, very safe and, in most cases, causes no side effects. The potential complications of the diseases outweigh any possible side effects of the vaccine.

Although people who live in dormitories or stay in group settings while attending “outside” activities (e.g., sports events) are at higher risk of contracting one of these highly contagious diseases, all adolescents should be vaccinated. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against group C meningococcal infection.

## Possible side effects of the vaccine

- Redness or increased sensitivity at injection site (within 72 hours of vaccination).
- Rarely, you may display a fever, irritability and discomfort.

## What to do

- Apply a cold, damp compress to the vaccine site.
- Administer acetaminophen-type medication if oral temperature is 38.5°C or higher.

*Severe allergic reactions are rare, begin immediately and can be treated by the person who gave the vaccine. You should remain on site for at least 15 minutes after vaccination so that an allergic reaction, if there is one, can be treated.*



**Consult your health care provider if side effects persist over 48 hours.  
For more information on vaccinations, visit: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/>**

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