



Vaccination Program in the NWT

Who will receive the vaccination?

This vaccination program will be implemented in a phased approach. Youth aged 14-19 will be the first to receive the vaccine. School aged children are next, followed by preschool aged children over one.

Why are all children and teenagers getting vaccinated?

Teenagers are most likely to spread the disease. All children and teenagers will be vaccinated in early 2004.

Will it be ongoing?

Yes. All children will get the shot as one of their regular childhood vaccines after the first phase of our universal program. It is important to continue this program to keep our children safe, so they will not get meningitis.

Has this vaccination program been implemented elsewhere?

The US, UK, Australia, Alberta and Quebec are already doing this. The meningococcal vaccination is recommended by the Canadian Pediatric Society and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Why now in the NWT?

Type C Meningococcal bacteria have infected two children in the NWT since December 2003. The same strain of this bacteria had also produced meningitis outbreaks in Alberta in 2002. The vaccination program being planned in the NWT, has been accelerated to prevent any further cases.

How can I learn more?

Call your local health centre and talk to your nurse/doctor. You can also find reliable information on the following Internet sites.

Department of Health and Social Services
www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

Canadian Pediatric Society
www.caringforkids.cps.ca

Canadian Health Network
www.Canadian-Health-Network.ca • Children • Immunization

Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada
www.Meningitis.ca

Canadian Immunization Awareness Program
www.Immunize.cpha.ca • resources • meningitis

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/nip/ • Parents Guide to Childhood Immunization

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/NIP/publications/VIS

