



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health
300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

June 10, 2024

Re: Ongoing activity of Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) in Manitoba

Dear Health Care Provider,

This is an update to the memo sent to all health care providers on January 11, 2024, regarding increased secondary bacterial infections (including IMD) in Manitoba.

The province continues to see an increase in IMD with a total of 19 lab-confirmed cases identified since December 21, 2023. Typically, there are 5-6 cases in an entire year.

- Nearly all cases were caused by serogroup W (18 confirmed) and are primarily occurring in children <4 years of age and adults ages 30–55 years.
- Many cases had a clinical presentation other than meningitis, with the majority presenting with bacteremia.
- No established direct links have been identified between cases.
- Two clusters have been identified in two small communities, where immunization campaigns are being implemented in response.

Health care providers should consider the following actions:

- Maintain a high index of suspicion for IMD, including in patients presenting with symptoms of sepsis **without** the typical symptoms of meningitis.
- Consider beginning early treatment with appropriate antibiotics after obtaining cultures to reduce the severity of illness and prevent fatalities.
- Offer the meningococcal conjugate quadrivalent vaccine (Men-C-ACYW) to all eligible individuals according to the provincial eligibility criteria for publicly funded vaccines (www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html):
 - 12-month program
 - Children born on or after January 1, 2020, can receive a dose of the Men-C-ACYW vaccine if they are at least 12 months old and regardless of previous immunization with a Men-C-C vaccine.
 - Individuals born between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2019, can receive a dose of Men-C-ACYW if they have never received a dose of the Men-C-C vaccine as part of the 12-month program AND they are less than 10 years old.
 - Manitoba's School Immunization Program also routinely provides a dose of Men-C-ACYW vaccine for children in grade 6.
 - Students born on or after January 1, 2008, can receive a dose of Men-C-ACYW if they are at least 10 years old regardless of Men-C-C or Men-C-ACYW immunization history.
 - Individuals born between 1995 and 2007 can receive a dose if they have no previous history of receiving Men-C-C vaccine.
 - Individuals with specific high-risk medical conditions are also eligible to receive the Men-C-ACYW vaccine.

Please check the Frequently Asked Questions document for more information regarding the infant meningococcal vaccine program change and catch up campaign:

www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/docs/meningococcal-faq.pdf.

Note: Children born between January 1, 2020 and February 28, 2023 who have yet to receive their dose of the Men-C-ACYW vaccine will receive a reminder letter in June 2024.

Public health is closely monitoring the situation and will provide additional guidance as needed as the situation continues to evolve.

For more information on Invasive Meningococcal Disease, please find the protocol at www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mid.pdf. Case numbers are updated weekly at www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/meningococcus.html.

Please, share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility.

For any questions, please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

“Original Signed By”

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