



**What parents need to know about new Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)  
vaccination program for children under 5.**

A Meningococcal vaccination program is available in WA for children aged 12 months to under 5 years, ending 31 December 2018. MenACWY vaccine helps protect against meningococcal disease types A, C, W, Y.

Meningococcal W was the type responsible for most of the recent cases in WA. MenACWY vaccine protects against type W meningococcal disease and also for type Y, which is also increasing in the community. The vaccine also protects against type C, already in the national childhood immunisation schedule, and type A, a type rare in Australia. This vaccine does not protect against type B meningococcal disease.

Studies have shown the effectiveness of MenACWY vaccine is between 80 to 85% and safe for children and adults. As with any vaccine, there may be some mild side effects, including injection site pain, redness and swelling, myalgia, headache, nausea, loss of appetite and fever. Serious vaccine reactions are similar to those of other vaccines and are very rare.

This program is in addition to the routine immunisation schedule, i.e. other childhood vaccinations should be given at the immunisation schedule points as currently recommended. Children who turn 12 months of age will be able to receive the free vaccine at their 12 month visit. Other children aged 13 months to <5 years should call ahead for an appointment so the provider can ensure the vaccine is in stock.

Eligible individuals can be vaccinated by GPs and at Community Health Clinics.

Further information is available by phoning the Regional Immunisation Coordinator on **97812355**, or at:  
[http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J\\_M/Meningococcal-ACWY-Statewide-vaccination-program](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Meningococcal-ACWY-Statewide-vaccination-program)