

PROTECTION FROM MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE FOR INFANTS

What is Meningococcal Disease?

Meningococcal diseases are caused by a bacteria (germ) called meningococcus. This bacterium can cause meningitis, an infection affecting the brain and spinal cord, septicemia (infection of the blood and organs), and can result in permanent brain damage, organ failure and even death.

Who should get Meningococcal vaccine?

In Newfoundland and Labrador meningococcal vaccine is publicly funded for all children aged 12 months. This needle is given in the arm only at the same visit as the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine).

Are there side effects from Meningococcal vaccine?

Some people have experienced a sore arm (redness, tender, swollen) for a day or two.

Who should not get the vaccine?

Let the Community/Public Health nurse or your doctor know if the person receiving the vaccine:

- is currently sick with another illness
- has any allergies
- has received any other vaccines in the past month

For additional information and services
contact your Regional Health Authority
listed in the white pages of your telephone
book.