



# IMMUNISATION INFORMATION



## Meningococcal W Program Launched in WA

### What is the Meningococcal ACWY program?

The Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination Program is in response to a recent increase in meningococcal infection caused by a particular type of the bacteria, 'serogroup W'. This program will be offered to those aged 15-19 years.

### Why is the program targeting 15-19 year olds?

Some of the highest rates of Meningococcal carriage and illness occur among 15-19 year olds and this age group can transmit the bacteria to people who are at increased risk of infection, including young children. The rationale for vaccinating 15-19 years olds is to both decrease illness from Meningococcal W in this age group and to prevent carriage. Reducing carriage in this age group will reduce transmission of the bacteria to others and help prevent infections within the larger community.

### How will the program work?

In 2017, the program targeted school-based immunisations in Years 10, 11, and 12 with additional vaccination clinics conducted at community health clinics to capture 18-19 year olds and other age-eligible persons not attending high school. Since 2018, the program targets Year 10 students only.

**Parents can expect to receive Meningococcal W vaccination consent materials through their child's school in Terms 2 and 3. They are urged to complete the form and return to their child's school promptly so their child can receive the vaccine.**

### How effective is the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine?

The vaccine is safe and effective. Studies have shown that the effectiveness of the Meningococcal ACWY vaccines is between 80 to 85 per cent in adolescents. Meningococcal ACWY vaccination programs have been implemented in adolescents aged 13-15 years in the UK since 2015, and adolescents aged 11-12 years in the US since 2005, and the vaccine has been found to be safe and effective.