

Who should not get this vaccine?

Tell the person giving the vaccine if:

- **you have any severe, life-threatening allergies.**
If you have had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a previous dose of a meningococcal ACWY vaccine, or if you have a severe allergy to any part of this vaccine, you should not get this vaccine. Your provider can tell you about the vaccine's ingredients.
- **you are pregnant or breastfeeding.**
Meningococcal vaccines are not routinely recommended for pregnant or breastfeeding women but can be given where clinically indicated. Please discuss further with your GP if you could be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

What are the vaccine side effects?

With any medicine, including vaccines, there is a chance of common adverse reactions. These are usually mild and go away by themselves. Serious reactions are also possible, but are rare. There is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a serious injury or death. You cannot get meningococcal infection from the vaccine.

Common adverse events include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fever, irritability, drowsiness, decreased appetite, headaches, rash and nausea. However, serious general adverse events are rare.

Vaccines are continually checked to make sure they are safe and effective. For information about vaccine safety and common and rare side-effects, please read more at: healthywa.wa.gov/immunisation



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What if there is a serious reaction – what should I look for?

Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or unusual behaviour. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness – usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination. For any severe reaction, call an ambulance or go to your closest emergency department.

What should I do?

Paracetamol can help reduce mild fever or pain and a cool damp cloth can also reduce pain at the injection site. Please seek medical advice or go to the local emergency department if you have any reaction you think is serious or unexpected.

Or call **healthdirect Australia** on 1800 022 222.

All immunisation providers in WA are required by law to report an adverse reaction following immunisation. Parents can also report concerns about any serious reactions after immunisation. Learn more at healthywa.wa.gov.au/WAVSS or call 6456 0208.

Contacts

Your local doctor, pharmacist, community health centre, hospital or public health unit

healthywa.wa.gov.au/publichealthunits

healthdirect Australia

Phone: 1800 022 222

More information

Department of Health

healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation

Commonwealth Department of Health

1800 671 811 or

health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation