

Invasive Meningococcal Disease Outbreak and Expanded Immunization Recommendations

Effective immediately, eligible infants 6 weeks to under 12 months of age may receive additional doses of meningococcal vaccine to provide earlier protection against meningococcal disease.

Saskatchewan is experiencing an outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) caused by serogroup W-135 with sustained higher-than-usual activity since January 2025. Cases have been reported in several areas across Saskatchewan with the highest concentrations currently reported in the Far North, Regina, and Southeast reporting zones. While the overall risk for the public remains low, infants younger than 12 months old currently have the highest IMD rates.

Health care providers should be aware of current meningococcal conjugate quadrivalent (Men-C-ACYW-135) recommendations and encourage immunization for those who are eligible:

- Children 12 months old.
- Adolescents in grade 8 (students who miss the school age vaccination remain eligible until 22 years of age).
- Individuals six weeks and older who have certain medical conditions that increase their risk of IMD as outlined in [Chapter 7](#) of the *Saskatchewan Immunization Manual (SIM)*.

In addition, to provide earlier protection to infants during the current serotype W-135 outbreak, one or two additional Men-C-ACYW-135 vaccine doses (based on age at presentation) may be offered to infants aged 6 weeks to under 12 months who present for routine immunization services and:

- Reside in a Saskatchewan First Nations community; and/or
- Infants traveling to and/or receiving visitors from these communities in Saskatchewan or Manitoba.

Detailed Men-C-ACYW-135 immunization schedules for infants 6 weeks to 6 months of age and 7 to 11 months of age are available in [Chapter 10: Biological Products](#) of the *SIM*.

This focused immunization response has been developed in collaboration with public health experts from Indigenous Services Canada, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority and the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health will continue to closely monitor this outbreak, expand vaccine eligibility parameters if needed, and work with public health partners to protect individuals and communities at increased risk.

Please share this bulletin with your staff and colleagues.

Population Health Branch, Information Bulletin No. 8, September 21, 2026