



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

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Dear Colleague:

A new meningococcal vaccine, Menactra™, manufactured by sanofi pasteur (formerly known as Aventis Pasteur) has recently been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for use in persons 11-55 years of age. This conjugate vaccine provides protection to the same four serogroups, A, C, Y, and W-135, as the previously licensed polysaccharide vaccine, Menomune™ (MPSV4). As a conjugate vaccine, MCV4 is expected to provide better and longer lasting protection than MPSV4, as well as a reduction in nasopharyngeal carriage of the vaccine serotypes.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization practices (ACIP) has issued preliminary recommendations for the routine use of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) for:

- Children at the pre-adolescent visit (11-12 years of age);
- Adolescents at high school entry (15 years of age);
- All college freshmen living in dormitories.

Other populations at increased risk for meningococcal disease for which routine vaccination is recommended have not changed:

- Persons with functional or anatomic asplenia;
- Persons with terminal complement deficiency;
- Laboratory personnel who are exposed routinely to aerosolized *N. meningitidis*;
- Persons who travel to, or reside in, countries in which *N. meningitidis* is epidemic (see www.cdc.gov/travel).

MCV4 is preferred in persons aged 11-55 years. Use of meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4) is recommended in persons at high risk for meningococcal diseases who are 2 to 10 years of age or older than 55 years. MPSV4 may continue to be used for persons 11-55 years if MCV4 is not available.

Supplies of MCV4 will initially be limited. As a result, there will need to be a gradual phasing in of these recommendations.

Information about revaccination is not currently available. MCV4 may be indicated for persons previously vaccinated with MPSV4 and who remain at high risk for invasive meningococcal disease (*i.e.*, those with functional or anatomic asplenia).

All doses of any vaccine administered to children <8 years of age in New York City must be reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). For questions about the CIR, please call 212-676-2323.

VFC providers can order meningococcal vaccine using the existing order form by entering MCV4 in the space marked "other" or by using the new VFC order form that has a box for MCV4. Vaccine for non-VFC eligible children and adults should be ordered directly from the manufacturer at 1-800-Vaccine or at www.vaccineshoppe.com. VFC supply issues should be directed to Mr. Dileep Sarecha at 212-676-2265.

For professional or technical questions, please call the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2259.

Sincerely,

Stephen Friedman, MD MPH

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Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization