



Dear Parent,

Your child is being invited to take part in a **Meningococcal Vaccine Study**. Researchers at the Canadian Centre for Vaccinology (CCfV) at the IWK Health Centre want to find out if there are any differences between the 3 different meningococcal vaccines given to across Canada, and if any of them are better than the others for adolescents.

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis* (NM) which can cause very severe disease, such as septicemia (blood poisoning) and meningitis. Children under 2 years of age and adolescents/young adults aged 15-20 years have the highest rates of disease. Even with antibiotic treatment, many children who get severe disease may die or end up with severe complications, such as brain damage or hearing loss.

All grade 7 students in Nova Scotia are offered a set of vaccines to keep them healthy and protect them against serious infections. All students are offered a meningococcal vaccine that protects against four types of the meningococcus bacteria. There are three kinds of meningococcal vaccines available in Canada and provided by provinces. These three are called Menveo[®], Menactra[®] and Nimenrix[®]. All three are approved in Canada to prevent meningococcal. All 3 of these vaccines are more than 90% effective in protecting adolescents against meningococcal disease. The vaccines are different in that they contain different proteins. The 3 vaccines have not been directly compared against each other in a single study before. Researchers at CCfV plan to test if there is any difference between the 3 vaccines, and if any of them is superior to the other 2 in protecting youth at this age.

This study is for healthy pre-teens entering Grade 7 who have not received Menveo[®], Menactra[®] and Nimenrix[®] before. Taking part in this study will involve coming to CCfV located at the IWK Health Centre three times over the course of 1 year. Your child will be randomly assigned into 1 of the 3 groups and they will receive a total of 1 dose of a meningococcal vaccine. Blood tests will be done at all 3 visits and we will ask questions about your child's health. The study will take about 3-4 hours of your time in total. Parents will receive \$25/visit and a parking pass and children will receive a \$25 gift card at each visit as a token of our appreciation for travel and time to take part in the study.

We hope you will consider this invitation and take part in this research study. Results from this study may provide researchers and policy makers information about the best meningococcal vaccine in the future.

Please note that your child's participation is voluntary. If you are interested, please contact the CCfV study staff. You can call us at 902-470-8948, email us at pamela.macintyre@iwk.nshealth.ca and visit our website at www.vaccineresearch.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Joanne Langley
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