

THREE NEW VACCINES ADDED TO ROUTINE CHILDHOOD SCHEDULE

The McGuinty government is ensuring that children in Ontario are more protected than ever against preventable diseases. Three new publicly funded vaccines have been added to the recommended schedule of routine childhood immunizations – vaccines for chicken pox, meningococcal meningitis and invasive pneumococcal disease.

VACCINE	WHO QUALIFIES	DISEASES PREVENTED	RESULTS
Meningococcal C-Conjugate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year-old children born on or after September 1, 2003 • Children who are HIV-positive and who were born on or after January 1, 2002 • Children 12 years of age, youth aged 15 to 19 inclusive, and high-risk people of all ages • People in close contact with a person who has meningococcal disease due to serogroup C 	Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD), including meningitis and meningococemia (meningococcal infection of the blood)	<p>Over 180,000 pre-teens (12-year-olds) and teenagers (15- to 19-year-olds) have received the vaccine.</p> <p>As well, approximately 398,000 doses have been administered by physicians to all eligible groups.</p>
Varicella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year-old children born on or after September 1, 2003 • Five-year-old children who have not yet had chicken pox • High-risk people of all ages 	Chicken Pox and its complications (i.e. bacterial skin infections)	136,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered (Note: the exact number of people receiving this vaccine cannot be determined since some age groups receive more than one dose).
Pneumococcal Conjugate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children under two years old born on or after January 1, 2004 • All high-risk children up to 59 months of age inclusive 	Invasive pneumococcal diseases (meningitis, pneumonia and infection of bloodstream)	201,600 doses of the vaccine have been administered (Note: the exact number of children receiving this vaccine cannot be determined since each child requires at least two doses, depending on their age).