

Sherbrooke, le 2024/04/22

To parents and students

**Subject: School-based booster vaccination campaign against serogroup Y meningococcus**

**Good day,**

When your child was 14 years old or was in Secondary 3, he/she was offered the meningococcal serogroup C vaccine. However, any vaccinated child remains vulnerable to other serogroups such as serogroup Y.

Since September 2022, we have seen an increase in invasive serogroup Y meningococcal infections. Young people aged 14 to 18 are the most affected. Meningococcus is a bacteria that can cause severe infections such as meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain) and septicemia (blood poisoning).

Québec experts recommend that students in Secondary 4 and 5, as well as anyone in the same age group who are not in these grades, be vaccinated against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W and Y.

To protect against these meningococcal infections and their complications, your child will be offered a free quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine for serogroups A, C, W and Y. It is safe to receive this vaccine after having received the meningococcal serogroup C vaccine.

In Québec, the legal age of consent for vaccination and other forms of health care is 14. Your child can therefore consent on his/her own to the vaccination offered at school to students in Secondary 4 and 5.

For information that will help you support your child in their consent process and to learn more about vaccination and vaccine-preventable diseases, visit the Vaccination section of the Government of Québec website at: [Québec.ca/vaccination](https://quebec.ca/vaccination)

#### **QUADRIVALENT MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE FOR SEROGROUPS A, C, W AND Y**

This inactivated vaccine is safe, and the majority of reactions are mild and short term.

Complete information on the infection and the vaccine can be found in the Vaccination, the Best Protection - Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine information sheet available at:

<https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-003614>

#### **VACCINATION SERVICES**

The vaccination at Alexander Galt RHS school will take place on **2024/05/07**.

On vaccination day, please ensure that your child brings his/her vaccination record and wears a short sleeve shirt. The record will be updated with any vaccines that are administered. Health insurance cards are not required.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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