

Enquiries to: Mr Scott Brown

Director, Immunisation Unit Communicable Diseases

Branch, QPHaSS

Telephone: 07 3328 9701

Oueensland Health

Dear Immunisation Service Provider

This letter is a reminder to providers regarding the eligibility for free menB immunisation under our state-funded program.

As announced on 1 March 2024, Queensland is now funding <u>menB vaccine</u> for the following groups of people:

- ALL infants and young children aged 6 weeks to 12 months
 - o Children aged 12 months to less than 2 years are eligible for catch-up.
- ALL adolescents at 15 to 19 years (inclusive)
 - The Queensland School Immunisation Program offers menB to year 10 students. All adolescents aged 15 to 19 years can also access this vaccine through primary care immunisation service providers.

The Australian Immunisation Register data for Queensland indicate that in the 0 to 2-year-old cohort, less than 66% of children have been fully immunised, leaving approximately 40,000 eligible children unvaccinated. In the 15 to 20-year-old cohort, just under 14% have been immunised, with approximately 386,000 eligible adolescents unvaccinated.

It is now easier than ever to protect young children and adolescents from this very dangerous disease. I ask you to consider how you can promote menB immunisation and encourage you to offer this important free vaccine to eligible children and adolescent at every opportunity.

You can order menB vaccine at no cost from **Queensland Health** as part of your routine fortnightly vaccine orders.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the delivery of immunisation services across Queensland.

If you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Scott Brown, Director, Immunisation Unit, Department of Health, on telephone 07 3328 9701or via email at scott.brown@health.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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Dr John Gerrard

Queensland Chief Health Officer

3 September 2024