

Panadol Administration & Meningococcal B Vaccination

For babies up to 2 years old

Fever is a common reaction following any vaccine, but it is more common with the meningococcal B vaccine.

Paracetamol is recommended for children less than 2 years of age when receiving the meningococcal B vaccine to reduce the risk of fever. Paracetamol is recommended regardless of whether the child has a fever.

Paracetamol dose 1 30 minutes before , or as soon as possible after immunisation	Time given ____ : ____
Paracetamol dose 2 6 hours after first dose, even if there is no fever	Time given ____ : ____
Paracetamol dose 3 6 hours after second dose, even if there is no fever	Time given ____ : ____

If you are concerned about your baby, seek medical advice.



Common side effects following meningococcal B immunisation include:

- Fever
- Pain
- Redness, swelling or a nodule (small hard lump) at the injection site
- Irritability
- Sleepiness
- Unusual crying and change in appetite
- Headache and feeling unwell (more commonly reported among adolescents and young adults).

About meningococcal B disease

- Meningococcal B disease is a rare but severe infection that occurs when meningococcal bacteria invades the body from the nose or throat through close prolonged contact.
- The disease can occur rapidly and may be difficult to diagnose early. Most people with meningococcal infection fully recover but some people can develop long-term health complications including limb deformity, skin scarring, deafness and brain damage. It is fatal in 5-10% of cases.
- All babies aged 6 weeks to 12 months can receive the meningococcal B vaccine for free as part of the NT funded immunisation schedule. A catch-up program for children up to the age of 2 years will run until December 2026.
- Children under 12 months will require three doses of the vaccine, while children over the age of 12 months will require two doses.
- The meningococcal B vaccine can be safely administered with other scheduled childhood vaccines as part of the standard National Immunisation Program, from 6 weeks of age.

