

VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question: A child born on 1/21/2009 is traveling with her family on vacation to sub-Saharan Africa in June 2019. Which of the following statements, if any, is true?

- a) She should receive 1 dose of MCV4 and 1 dose of Men B at least 10 days prior to travel
- b) She should receive 1 dose of MCV4 at least 10 days prior to travel, 1 dose at age 11-12 years, and 1 dose at age 16 years
- c) She should receive 1 dose of Men B at least 10 days prior to travel and 1 dose at age 11-12 years
- d) She should receive 1 dose of MCV4 at least 10 days prior to travel and 1 dose at age 16 years
- e) None of the statements are true

Answer: d) She should receive 1 dose of MCV4 at least 10 days prior to travel and 1 dose at age 16 years.

Although meningococcal disease is found worldwide, the “meningitis belt” of sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates in the world. Persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease due to travel to sub-Saharan Africa during the dry season (December – June) should receive the MCV4 vaccine (either Men ACWY-D [Menactra®] or MenACWY-CRM [Menveo®]). Historically, outbreaks in the meningitis belt were primarily due to serogroup A. However, recent meningococcal outbreaks have primarily been due to serogroups C and W, although serogroup X outbreaks are also reported.

She needs one dose of MCV4 now (at least 10 days prior to departure) because of her travel to sub-Saharan Africa. Since her first dose of MCV4 will be administered at age 10 years, she does not need to be revaccinated at age 11-12 years. ACIP considers the dose of MCV4 given to a 10-year old child to be valid for the first dose in the adolescent series. She should receive a booster dose at age 16 years.

ACIP does not recommend routine MenB vaccination for travel to countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as serogroup B disease is extremely rare in this region.

Source: Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease: Recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), March 22, 2013 <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r6202a1.htm>

CDC Travelers' Health Meningococcal Disease <https://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/meningococcal-disease>

CDC Travelers' Health Yellow Book Meningococcal Disease <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/meningococcal-disease#4670>

Immunization Action Coalition Ask the Experts Meningococcal B http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_meningococcal_b.asp#risk

Immunization Action Coalition Ask the Experts Meningococcal ACWY http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_meningococcal_acwy.asp

