

Enquiries to:

Queensland Health

Telephone:

C-ECTF-24/585

Dr Maria Boulton President Australian Medical Association Queensland PO BOX 125 KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

Email: amaq@amaq.com.au

Dear Dr Boulton

I write to provide you with an update regarding the Queensland Meningococcal B (menB) Vaccination Program.

The menB program aims to vaccinate over half a million infants, children and adolescents who are eligible to receive a funded menB vaccine. To ensure sufficient vaccine doses are available for each cohort, the menB program will be implemented in two phases.

From February 2024, Bexsero vaccine will be offered in the Queensland School Immunisation Program to students in Year 10 as part of phase one. For Year 10 students who cannot be vaccinated in a school setting, menB vaccine can be administered by vaccination service providers once stock is available.

From mid-March 2024, the Queensland Health Immunisation Program (QHIP) will begin to distribute Bexsero to QHIP registered Vaccination Service Providers (VSPs) who have an ordering history indicating they have a patient base which includes the Queensland menB eligible cohorts:

- · Infants, 6 weeks to 12 months of age
- Children aged over 12 months to less than 2 years (catch up)
- Adolescents aged 15 to 19 years (inclusive).

The preliminary supply of vaccine will occur outside of the regular ordering schedule. This will take approximately two weeks to complete statewide. QHIP will aim to supply VSPs with 4-6 weeks' supply of Bexsero to ensure providers have sufficient stock on hand until their next monthly order is due. QHIP will communicate to all VSPs the importance of not booking appointments or sending recalls until the vaccine is received. VSPs can order Bexsero post the preliminary supply in their regular monthly vaccine order.

The details outlined above will be disseminated to all VSPs closer to the commencement of the program. In the interim, details regarding the program can be found via <u>Queensland MenB Vaccination Program | Queensland Health.</u>

General Practitioners play a vital role in immunisation for the whole community. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation for the implementation of the menB program in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

Nick Steele
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services
Queensland Health
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