



Meningitis Relief Canada

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For immediate release

December 10, 2013

Health Canada Approves New Meningitis Vaccine

First Vaccine to Protect against Most Common Strain of Meningococcal Meningitis

(Brampton)—Meningitis Relief Canada (MRC) is applauding Health Canada for approving a new vaccine to help protect infants, children, and teenagers from meningitis.

Bexsero was approved yesterday to protect children aged two months to 17 years from Meningococcal B (MenB), the most common type of meningococcal meningitis in Canada. Previously approved in Europe, it is the first vaccine to protect against this strain.

“Vaccination and increased awareness are crucial to preventing the spread of meningitis,” according to Furakh Mir, Founder of Meningitis Relief Canada (MRC). “The approval of this new meningitis vaccine is a huge step forward in preventing the spread of this devastating disease.”

Meningococcal meningitis is an inflammation of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. It is one of the most devastating diseases affecting children and teenagers, and often goes initially undetected because its early symptoms resemble the flu.

Appearing suddenly, MenB can be fatal within 24-48 hours of the first symptoms. Some individuals will die of the disease, and many who don't will face long-term disability, such as neurological damage, hearing loss, or limb amputation.

MenB is responsible for four out of five meningococcal illnesses in infants less than a year old and two out of three illnesses in children between the ages of one and four. It also causes nearly two out of three cases in teenagers between 15 and 19.

Mir's own infant son contracted meningitis two years ago, but thankfully recovered.

“Children and teenagers are at the highest risk of contracting meningitis,” continued Mir. “As parents, we will do anything to protect our kids. Vaccination can prevent so much suffering by keeping young people healthy and giving parents peace of mind.”

Meningitis Relief Canada (MRC) is a Canadian registered charity that raises meningitis awareness and provides grief and bereavement counseling as well as financial assistance to individuals and families affected by the after-effects of meningitis. For more information please visit www.meningitisrelief.com or email info@meningitisrelief.com

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