Preliminary vaccine coverage for the school based meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) adolescent vaccination programme in England, 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016

Coverage for the first cohorts to be routinely offered MenACWY vaccine in schools from September 2015 (those born 1 September 2000 to 31 August 2001 (Year 10 in 2015/16) and those born 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2002 (Year 9 in 2015/16)) and evaluated up to the end August 2016 was 77.2% (Year 10) and 84.1% (Year 9).

Coverage for the catch-up cohort offered MenACWY vaccine through the school based programme (those born 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2000 (Year 11 in 2015/16)) and evaluated up to the end August 2016 was 71.8%.

All cohorts remain eligible for vaccination until the age of 25.

Introduction

MenACWY immunisation was added to the national immunisation programme in August 2015 following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in response to the rising number of meningococcal W (MenW) cases [1].

The objective of the MenACWY immunisation programme is to immunise all teenagers in school years 9 to 13 before they complete academic year 13. This is being met through replacing the routine adolescent MenC booster given in years 9 or 10 with the MenACWY vaccine since September 2015, and through a series of school and general practice (GP) based catch-up campaigns targeting older teenagers.

Approximately half of teenagers in Years 9 and 10 in 2015/16 were offered MenACWY vaccine in 2015/16; the remaining half (now in Years 10 and 11) are currently being offered vaccine in 2016/17.

Additionally, MenACWY is offered to older students aged up to 25 who are in university as part of the existing time-limited ‘freshers’ programme. Full details of the MenACWY programme are given in the April issue of Vaccine Update [2].

This is the first report of the MenACWY schools based immunisation programme.

Methods

Data for each local authority (LA) were uploaded via an Excel spreadsheet on to the ImmForm* website.

*ImmForm is the system used by Public Health England to record vaccine coverage data for some immunisation programmes and to provide vaccine ordering facilities for the NHS
MenACWY vaccine cohorts 2015/16*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort number</th>
<th>Catch-up/ routine</th>
<th>School year in 2015/16</th>
<th>Age in 2015/16</th>
<th>Dates of birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Catch-up</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15-16 years old</td>
<td>1 Sept 1999 – 31 Aug 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Routine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14-15 years old</td>
<td>1 Sept 2000 – 31 Aug 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Routine</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13-14 years old</td>
<td>1 Sept 2001 – 31 Aug 2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Each LA provided MenACWY coverage data for Cohort 1, and Cohort 2 and/or 3.

Full details of the data collection process and definitions can be found in the user guide MenACWY and Td/IPV Vaccine Coverage Collections 2015/16, Local Authority Annual Survey, Reference guide for NHS England local teams on submitting annual vaccine coverage data on ImmForm

Participation and data quality

Caveats describing participation and data quality issues are included within the data tables.

Results

- Fifty-nine LAs offered MenACWY in Year 10 in 2015/16 as the main routine cohort. Eighty-six LAs offered MenACWY in Year 9 as the main routine cohort in 2015/16. A further seven LAs offered MenACWY to both Year 9 and 10 routinely.
- Individuals who were in Year 9 in 2015/16 in LAs not offering the vaccine in that year will receive it in Year 10 in 2016/17. Individuals who were in Year 10 in 2015/16 in LAs not offering the vaccine in that year will receive it in Year 11 in 2016/17.
- MenACWY coverage in Cohort 2 (Year 10 in 2015/16) was 77.2%. This excludes four LAs that were unable to provide data (those with GP/mixed programmes).
- Coverage in Year 10 (for those offering MenACWY to this cohort routinely) ranged from 17% (Redbridge LA) to 94% (Bedford LA). Eighty-four percent (52/62) of LAs providing data achieved coverage of 70% and above.
- MenACWY coverage in Cohort 3 (Year 9 in 2015/16) was 84.1%. This excludes four LAs that were unable to provide data (those with GP programmes).
- Coverage in Year 9 (for those offering MenACWY to this cohort routinely) ranged from 59% (Lambeth LA) to 100% (Isles of Scilly LA). Ninety-one percent (81/89) of LAs providing data achieved coverage of 70% and above.
- MenACWY coverage in the catch-up Cohort 1 (Year 11 in 2015/16) was 71.8%. This excludes five LAs that were unable to provide data (those with GP/mixed programmes), and three Essex LAs where MenACWY is instead scheduled for this cohort in 2016/17 (in Year 12).
- Coverage in Year 11 ranged from zero (City of London LA, Hackney LA) to 100% (Isles of Scilly LA). Sixty-five percent (94/144) of LAs providing data achieved coverage of 70% and above.
Discussion
These data are preliminary findings for the pilot year of this collection and should be regarded as provisional. Due to the variation in the delivery of this new vaccination programme, with some LAs using either a GP based or mixed schools and GP delivery model, not all LAs were expected to submit data. The high participation rate in the collection (data were provided by 97% (147/152) of LAs), is encouraging.

As with other adolescent vaccination programmes delivered through schools, we are seeing the highest coverage in younger individuals. Achieving high coverage in older teenagers is a challenge across vaccine programmes. The MenACWY vaccine coverage reported for Year 9 is close to coverage reported for one dose of HPV vaccine in Year 8 delivered in the same academic year (87% in 2015/16) [3].

The LAs, detailed in the caveats accompanying the data tables, that did not offer MenACWY to Year 11 or achieved very low (<5%) coverage should attempt to catch-up this year group. Those cohorts not offered this vaccine in 2015/16 should be targeted by the LA during 2016/17 through their schools programmes and/or GP practices. All individuals remain eligible for vaccine until they are 25.

Further information
Further information relating to the implementation of this vaccination programme is available from the PHE website document collection, Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccination programme.

References