



Department of State
Bureau of Medical Services
Tropical Medicine – Infectious Diseases
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28 October 2021

From: Gregory J Martin, MD
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To: Dr. Sara Sofie Viksmoen Watle
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Subj: Use of *Nimenrix* (Pfizer meningococcal groups A, C, W-135 and Y conjugate vaccine)

Dr. Watle:

This is an update of our office's previous communication to you regarding meningococcal immunization from 4 May 2016.

Nimenrix is the formulation of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine that is marketed by *Pfizer* in Europe and has been approved by the European Medicines Agency. Although *Pfizer* does not market this particular meningococcal vaccine in the United States, it is the equivalent of the conjugate vaccines that are administered here. *Nimenrix* is an acceptable, equivalent substitute for the quadrivalent vaccines (*GSK's Menveo* and *Sanofi-Pasteur's MenQuadfo* and *Menactra*) that are available in the U.S.

The Department of State's Bureau of Medical Services (MED) reviews vaccines that are used outside the United States and determines whether they may be used in our Embassy and Consulate Health Units when American sourced vaccines would be logistically challenging to obtain. MED has approved the use of *Nimenrix* for use in our Health Units since 2013 and continues to use it many of our European posts including Oslo. Children immunized on schedule with *Nimenrix* fulfill the U.S. CDC's recommendations for quadrivalent (A,C,Y,W-135) meningococcal vaccine and do NOT require repeat immunization with U.S. vaccines.

Some universities in the U.S. require additional immunization against meningococcal Group B infection. Group B infection is NOT covered with *Nimenrix* (nor is it by the American quadrivalent vaccines) and students planning on attending universities with a Group B requirement will need additional immunization either prior to departure or upon arrival in the U.S.

Gregory J. Martin MD