

Herd Immunity & the B Part of It study

Examining meningococcal B disease

The B Part of It study examined whether immunising a large community group with the licensed meningococcal B vaccine could reduce the spread of meningococcal bacteria in teenagers. Meningococcal B disease is spread when a person carrying the bacteria coughs or sneezes meningococcus into the air, or by close contact, such as kissing.

This study explored whether the meningococcal B vaccine could play a role in preventing transmission of bacteria and providing a herd immunity benefit.

Herd immunity is when a significant portion of a population is immunised against a disease, preventing the transmission of a disease from one person to another.

If enough people in the community are immunised and protected from a disease, the number of cases may be dramatically reduced. This assists to protect those who are not immune.

Ultimately, what the B Part of It study found was that the vaccine had **no discernible effect** on the carriage of the disease-causing meningococcal bacteria.

This highlights the importance of administering meningococcal B vaccine to individuals in high-risk age groups; **herd immunity cannot be relied on to protect unvaccinated people against meningococcal B disease.**

Infants and young people must be vaccinated to be adequately protected.

This study also uncovered some new and novel insights that the vaccine could provide protection against other closely-related bacteria responsible for other diseases, including gonorrhoea and meningococcal W disease.

The results of this game-changing study will influence meningococcal immunisation programs in other countries.

For more information, visit: bpartofit.com.au