

Important information about the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

Public Health would like to let you know about a new MenB vaccination programme for young people who may be at higher risk of serious illness.

Who is eligible?

The vaccine is being offered to:

- Students currently in Year 13 (born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008).
- Young people under the age of 25 who are starting university for the first time in autumn 2026.
- Some young people under 25 who will be living in further education accommodation or halls of residence for the first time.

Why is this vaccine important?

MenB bacteria can cause meningitis and blood poisoning (septicaemia). Although these illnesses are rare, they can become very serious very quickly.

Young people starting university or living away from home for the first time are at a higher risk because they often come into close contact with lots of new people.

When can you get the vaccine?

The vaccination programme starts from 20 July 2026.

You will need 2 doses of the vaccine, given at least 4 weeks apart, so it is important to have the first dose as soon as possible.

The vaccine will be available through participating Community Pharmacies.

What should you do next?

- Those eligible in year 13 will be contacted directly through the NHS App, text, email or letter depending on records held by the health service.
- Arrange the first vaccination as early as possible.
- Make sure you attend both appointments for the best protection.

Find out more

More information about meningitis, the MenB vaccine and how to access the programme will be shared soon or visit the UKHSA website for more information

[Thousands of young people to be offered 2-dose MenB vaccine - GOV.UK](#)

Thank you for helping us protect young people as they prepare for university and further education.

Kind regards,

Public Health Team - Leicester City Council

Other Information for Students and Parents

Following recent outbreaks of MenB (meningococcal B) disease in England, a temporary MenB vaccination programme is being offered to young people most at risk.

Why is this vaccine being offered?

Meningococcal disease can cause serious illnesses including:

- Meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord)
- Septicaemia (blood poisoning)

Although uncommon, these illnesses can become very serious very quickly and require urgent medical attention.

Young people starting university or living away from home for the first time are at increased risk because they often mix closely with large numbers of new people.

Haven't young people already had a meningitis vaccine?

Most young people will already have received the MenACWY vaccine at school, which protects against four different types of meningococcal bacteria (A, C, W and Y).

However, MenB is a different type of meningococcal bacteria, and many older teenagers and young adults will not have received MenB vaccination as part of their routine childhood vaccinations.

MenB vaccine is now routinely offered to all babies in the UK, but this programme was introduced after many of today's university-age students had already passed the age when it would have been offered.

If you are unsure which vaccines you have received, you can check with your GP practice.

Know the signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia

Meningitis and septicaemia can develop quickly. Symptoms can include:

- Sudden fever (high temperature)
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Sensitivity to light
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Confusion or difficulty concentrating
- Extreme sleepiness
- Cold hands and feet or shivering
- Muscle or joint pain
- Rapid unusual breathing
- A rash that does not fade when pressed (not everyone will develop a rash)

What should I do if I am worried?

Do not wait for all symptoms to appear.

If you think someone may have meningitis or septicaemia, seek urgent medical help immediately by contacting NHS 111, your GP, or calling 999 in an emergency.

Early treatment saves lives.

For more information about the MenB vaccination programme, please look out for information from your school, college, university, GP practice or local pharmacy or visit

[UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)