

Public Health Commissioning  
NHS England, South East  
Hampshire and Thames Valley  
Explorer House  
Southampton  
SO16 0AS

12 June 2026

Dear colleagues,

**Subject:** Initial information: forthcoming one-off MenB vaccination programme for Year 13 pupils and university entrants.

Following today's announcement by DHSC, we are writing to provide early insight regarding the one-off Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccination programme which will start next month. A formal bipartite letter is due to follow next week.

The programme will offer MenB vaccination to those at highest immediate risk ahead of the autumn academic term, specifically:

- **Individuals completing Year 13 in summer 2026 (born 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008), and**
- **Individuals under 25 years of age starting university or moving into residential further education for the first time in autumn 2026.**

Eligible individuals will require two doses of MenB vaccine for optimal protection, with the first dose expected to be offered from 20th July, followed by a second dose in August, with at least 28 days between the doses.

The MenB outbreak in Kent earlier this year was the fastest growing and largest ever seen in the UK. While the response to that incident has concluded, there have also been more clusters than normal this year, some of which have been bigger than expected.

This one-off programme will help protect young people at highest immediate risk ahead of the usual autumn peak in meningitis in this age group. The JCVI is updating its assessment of the appropriate eligibility for routine Meningococcal B vaccination which will be provided to Minsters as soon as possible.

At present:

- **Regional NHS England Public Health Commissioning Teams will lead the response working with ICBs.**
  - **No action is required from GP practices or School-Aged Immunisation Services.**
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- **Providers will be confirmed in the coming weeks with community pharmacies supporting the programme.**

Pharmacies are being used for this cohort to provide greater flexibility and accessibility, recognising that many individuals move frequently between their home and place of study. Community pharmacies offer a convenient, nationwide network, enabling individuals to receive their vaccination in a range of locations and to complete their course (including a second dose) at a different site if needed. As many within the eligible group will no longer be in school or college, a school-age immunisation delivery model would not be appropriate.

Over the coming weeks, a national communications campaign will support awareness. If you receive enquiries from patients, parents or students, we advise communicating that:

- **Further information for the public will be available shortly through the NHS website, and**
- **Booking for eligible cohorts is expected to open in July via community pharmacies subject to ongoing consultation with CPE.**

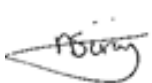
Further information can be found at the links below to the UKHSA and DHSC statements:

- [Who is eligible for the new one-off MenB vaccine programme? – UK Health Security Agency](#)
- [Thousands of young people to be offered two-dose MenB vaccine - GOV.UK](#)

We will share the full systems letter and any additional guidance as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



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