

Dear Parent/Carer,

In light of the current meningitis outbreak in Kent, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs and symptoms of Meningococcal disease (meningitis and septicaemia) and which vaccinations children can have to protect them.

What is Meningococcal?

Meningococcal infection is an uncommon but serious disease. It does not spread very easily, and the bacteria can only be passed to others after a long period of close contact. There are several types of meningococcal bacteria that can cause meningitis. The current outbreak in Kent is caused by Meningococcal B (MenB).

Information about vaccines

It's important to make sure that children are up to date with their routine vaccinations, which provide vital protection against several serious infections.

MenACWY vaccine - offered to teenagers, usually in years 9 and 10 at school. This protects against four types of meningitis: A, C, W, and Y. Young adults under 25 can catch up with the MenACWY vaccine if they missed it at school.

It's important to get it before starting university or college, where infections can spread more easily. You can get it by contacting your GP.

The MenACWY vaccine does not protect against MenB, and there is no routine MenB vaccination programme for young adults.

MenB vaccine - offered to children under two. This vaccine started in 2015, meaning children born before 2015 have not been vaccinated as part of their routine immunisation schedule. Because of this, it's important to know the signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia - spotting them early can save lives.

Anyone with symptoms of meningitis should call 999 or go to A&E straight away. If someone goes to bed unwell, check on them regularly.

[Find out more about Meningitis on the NHS website.](#)

Read the UK Health Security Agency blog - <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/18/meningitis-b-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know/>