

New one-off MenB vaccination programme



The NHS is offering a one-off MenB (meningococcal B) vaccination programme for eligible young people ahead of starting university or higher education in autumn 2026.

This follows an increase in MenB cases among teenagers and young adults, particularly in shared accommodation settings such as university halls.



Why do young people need the MenB Vaccine?

Meningococcal group B (MenB) bacteria can cause meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning). This can become life-threatening very quickly.

There has been a rise in MenB cases and recent outbreaks affecting teenagers and university-age students in England.

The vaccine will help protect young people from MenB, in particular before they move into **shared accommodation settings**, such as **university halls**.



Who is eligible?

1. Young people born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008.
2. Under-25s starting university or residential further education for the first time in autumn 2026.

How can young people access the vaccine?

The programme will be available at **participating community pharmacies**.

The vaccine requires **two doses**, at least **four weeks apart**. Young people are encouraged to get vaccinated earlier in the summer to complete both doses before term begins in autumn.

Those born between **1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008** will be:

- contacted directly by the NHS via the **NHS App**, **text message**, or **email** with booking instructions in **mid-July 2026**.
- able to book on the NHS website, via [this link](#).
- able to get a **walk-in appointment** at participating pharmacies.

Under-25s starting university for the first time can attend participating pharmacies as a **walk-in appointment** in **late July 2026**.

To receive the vaccine, they will need to show proof they will be attending university or residential further education in the 2026/27 academic year.



Frequently Asked Questions

What if a young person has already had the MenACWY vaccine?

Young people will have been offered MenACWY vaccine in Year 9 or Year 10. The MenACWY vaccine does not protect against MenB. Young people who have already had MenACWY are still eligible and encouraged to receive the MenB vaccine.

Are there side effects?

As with any vaccine, most side effects are mild and short-lived, such as:

- soreness at the injection site
- fever
- headache
- tiredness
- muscle aches



Are current Year 12 students eligible?

No. The programme applies to students completing Year 13 in summer 2026, not those moving into Year 13 in September 2026.

When does booking open?

For those born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008, the online NHS booking system is expected to open from 13 July 2026. This will be available on the NHS website, via [this link](#). Walk-in access for all eligible groups at participating pharmacies is expected from 20 July 2026.

Will the vaccine be available in schools or GP Practices?

No, vaccinations will be delivered through community pharmacies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a list of participating pharmacies?

Not yet. A national NHS pharmacy finder will go live when bookings open in July 2026.

Can young people get both doses before university starts?

Yes, young people are strongly encouraged to start the course early in summer 2026 to ensure both doses are completed before moving into university or residential accommodation.

What if a young person misses the booking window?

Young people will still be able to access vaccination throughout 2026, but they should aim to complete both doses before term starts in Autumn 2026 to ensure best protection.

What are the symptoms of meningitis?

Young people should seek urgent medical help if they develop a combination of the following symptoms:

- fever,
- severe headache,
- neck stiffness,
- sensitivity to light,
- rash that does not fade under pressure,
- confusion or extreme drowsiness.



For further information click here:

**Who is eligible for the new one-off
MenB vaccine programme? – UK
Health Security Agency**

or scan the QR code:

