



## Briefing for general practice teams: NHS Meningococcal B Vaccination Service

This Community Pharmacy England Briefing provides information for general practice teams on the NHS Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service which will commence on 20th July 2026.

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### Background and aims of the service

The service has been commissioned as a time-limited MenB vaccination offer available this summer for current school Year 13 students and people under 25 years of age who will be starting university as undergraduates or moving into halls or shared accommodation as part of residential further education settings for the first time in autumn 2026.

The programme has been introduced in response to the recent [meningitis B outbreaks](#) and provides time for a full review of evidence by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation regarding any changes to the behaviour and transmission of MenB.

The aim is to protect those at highest immediate increased risk of infection who have not previously been vaccinated and to reduce the risk of meningococcal disease spreading amongst those who may be around lots of new people in shared living spaces like university halls and shared accommodations.



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### Who is eligible for this vaccine?

In England, the following groups are eligible:

- Young people currently in school Year 13 (born between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008);
- All undergraduate freshers born on or after 21st July 2001 who will be attending university for the first time in autumn 2026; and
- Those born on or after 21st July 2001 who are starting further education for the first time in autumn 2026 and who will be living in further education accommodation or halls of residence.

This offer includes international students who may not arrive in the UK until September 2026 and those from the devolved nations and Crown Dependencies attending these settings in England.

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### How is the service to be provided and where?

- This NHS service will be provided by community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians mainly from community pharmacies (vaccination off the pharmacy premises can be provided with consent from NHS England).
- The service will provide two doses of MenB vaccine. The second dose will be provided at least 28 days after the first.



- The vaccines are provided under a patient group direction developed by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and authorised by NHS England.
- If a young person is in an eligible group but has completed a course of MenB vaccination in the past 5 years, they will not need further vaccination now.
- Those eligible in school Year 13 will be contacted directly through the NHS App, text, email or letter depending on records held by the health service.
- Alongside the rollout, the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and UKHSA will deliver a public information campaign to drive uptake among eligible groups.
- Eligible individuals will be able to book their appointment directly with available pharmacies via the NHS National Booking Service.

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### What notifications will be sent to general practice and how will these be sent?

The outcome of the consultation and details of the vaccination provided will be shared with the individual's general practice and if applicable, why no vaccination was given if that is the case.



The notifications will be sent as a structured message in real-time by NHS England's Record a Vaccination Service (RAVS).

### Can general practice signpost people to the service if they are requesting an appointment at the practice?

Yes. The service can be offered directly to eligible people presenting in participating pharmacies or can be signposted to from local general practices. Individuals can also book an appointment via the [NHS website](#) when the booking facility opens from 13th July 2026.

### Is there a formal route to signpost eligible individuals to the service?

No. Individuals do not need to be formally referred; instead, they can be signposted to a pharmacy offering the service.

Further information on the NHS Meningitis B Vaccination Service can be found at [cpe.org.uk/MenB](https://cpe.org.uk/MenB).

If you have any queries or require more information, please speak to a participating local pharmacy or contact: [services.team@cpe.org.uk](mailto:services.team@cpe.org.uk).