



Briefing for pharmacy teams – the NHS Meningococcal B Vaccination Service

This Community Pharmacy England Briefing provides information for pharmacy teams on the NHS Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service which is being commissioned as a time-limited Advanced service for this year **from 20th July 2026**.

It is 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.



Background and aims of the service

The programme has been introduced in response to the recent [meningitis B outbreaks](#).

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 accommodation.



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 Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Crown Dependencies attending these settings in England.

Overview of the service

- The service commences on **20th July 2026** and will run until 31st March 2027.
- The service can be provided by a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician or any other health care professional able to vaccinate under a patient group direction provided the service is under the oversight of the Responsible Pharmacist.
- The MenB vaccine will be ordered from NHS central stocks and orders will be primarily based on the number of booked appointments.
- Eligible individuals will be able to book their appointment with available pharmacies via the NHS National Booking Service – [book an appointment online](#).

- Your pharmacy will also have to offer walk-in vaccinations at certain times of the week. Speak to your pharmacy manager to confirm your pharmacy's plans.
- Patient eligibility must be checked before vaccination, regardless of how the individual presents. Students starting in undergraduate higher education, or those living in further education accommodation or halls of residence, must provide proof of their date of birth and evidence of an offer from their chosen university or further education. Acceptable forms of evidence are set out in the service specification. 
- The service involves two doses of MenB vaccine. The second dose should be provided at least 28 days after the first vaccine.
- The second dose can be provided at any pharmacy providing the service.
- The first dose must be administered before 31st December 2026 (and second doses offered until 31st March 2027).
- Vaccinations are given as an injection into the upper arm.
- 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 UK Health Security Agency will deliver a public information campaign to drive uptake among eligible groups.
- Once vaccinated, information relating to the vaccination will be shared electronically with the individual's general practice.
- Pharmacy owners must have a standard operating procedure (SOP) in place for this service and all pharmacy staff involved in any aspect of provision of the service must be familiar with and adhere to the SOP.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What role can I play in the service?

The whole pharmacy team can be involved in promoting this service and can highlight the availability of the service to young people and their parents and carers who visit the pharmacy. Pharmacy team members can also be involved in agreeing the date and time of a vaccination and can assist individuals with booking an appointment or a follow-up appointment.

Q. Can children of other ages who are eligible for vaccination as part of their children's vaccination schedule also use the service?

No. Children of other ages who are eligible for NHS MenB vaccinations can be vaccinated by their general practice.

Further information on the Men B Vaccination Service can be found at cpe.org.uk/MenB.

