



Invasive meningococcal disease

UKHSA communications for stakeholders

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England (NHSE) and partners are coordinating the health response to cases of invasive meningococcal disease.

UKHSA has produced some communications resources which aim to share information about these cases, and to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of meningitis and the action people should take if they require medical attention. These materials can be shared on stakeholder channels.

This document was updated on 17 April 2026 (first shared on 16 March 2026).

For further information about our national communications please contact:
externalaffairs@ukhsa.gov.uk

Sign up to [our Stakeholder Cascade](#) to receive a weekly newsletter with the latest news, updates and guidance from UKHSA

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Media updates

- **Weymouth:** [Antibiotics and MenB vaccination to be offered to young people in Dorset - GOV.UK](#)
- **Kent:** Any [media statements issued by UKHSA can be found on GOV.UK](#). This page is being updated regularly.
- **Kent:** [Expansion of Meningitis B vaccination offer to Kent Students - GOV.UK](#)

Blogs and FAQs

- **Weymouth:** [We have a FAQ blog on the Dorset outbreak.](#)
- **Kent:** We have an [FAQ blog on the Kent outbreak.](#)
- We also have a more general [blog on meningitis.](#)
- We have produced a new blog specifically on the MenB vaccine: [Who is eligible for the MenB vaccine and do I need it myself?](#)
- We have published [information for education settings in England regarding the meningococcal disease outbreak](#)

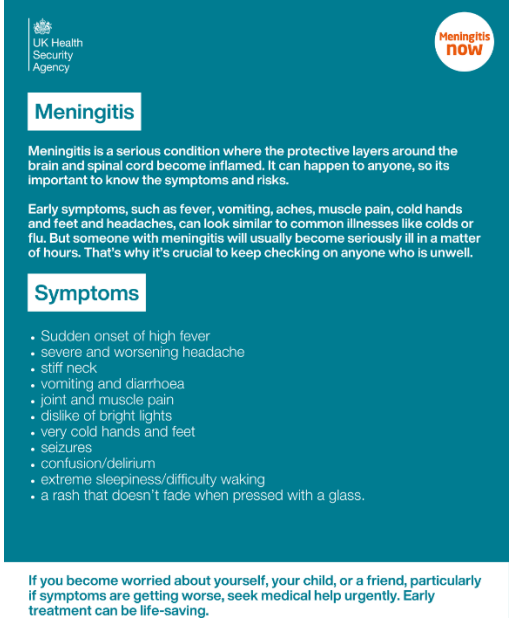
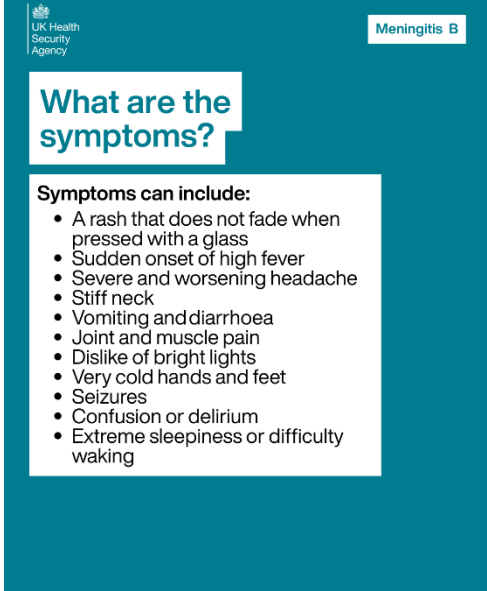
Data

- [Invasive meningococcal disease statistical releases](#)
- **Kent:** [Kent and Medway ICS are publishing data on the number of vaccines and antibiotics.](#) This page also contains information for people on what they need to do (updated regularly)

Social media assets

UKHSA has produced a range of social media assets on signs and symptoms of meningitis, its transmission and on the vaccines that protect against the different strains of the disease. The assets can be used on partner channels and can be downloaded [via this Google Drive link](#). If you are unable to access, please email us externalaffairs@ukhsa.gov.uk.

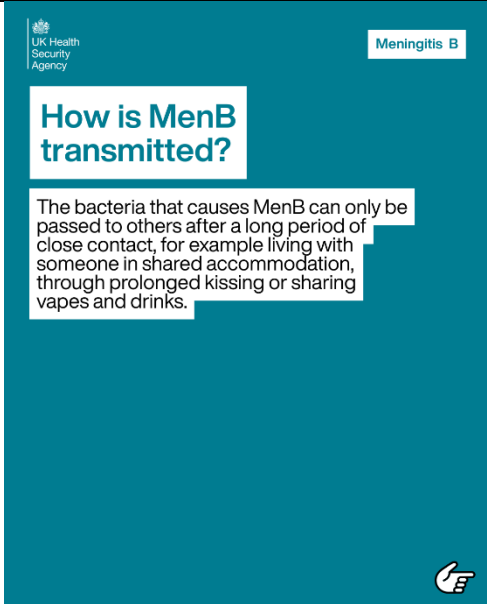
Meningitis/MenB signs and symptoms and transmission

Asset	Suggested post copy
<p data-bbox="108 421 734 495">Meningitis signs and symptoms (co-badged with Meningitis Now)</p>  <p>The infographic features the UK Health Security Agency logo and the Meningitis Now logo. It is titled 'Meningitis' and explains that it is a serious condition where the protective layers around the brain and spinal cord become inflamed. It lists early symptoms such as fever, vomiting, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet, and headaches. A list of symptoms includes: sudden onset of high fever, severe and worsening headache, stiff neck, vomiting and diarrhoea, joint and muscle pain, dislike of bright lights, very cold hands and feet, seizures, confusion/delirium, extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking, and a rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass. A warning at the bottom states: 'If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently. Early treatment can be life-saving.'</p>	<p data-bbox="770 421 1452 495">It's important to know the signs of symptoms of meningitis. Get more info from @NHSuk</p> <p data-bbox="770 528 1259 566">http://nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis</p>
 <p>The infographic features the UK Health Security Agency logo and the Meningitis B logo. It is titled 'What are the symptoms?' and lists symptoms that can include: a rash that does not fade when pressed with a glass, sudden onset of high fever, severe and worsening headache, stiff neck, vomiting and diarrhoea, joint and muscle pain, dislike of bright lights, very cold hands and feet, seizures, confusion or delirium, and extreme sleepiness or difficulty waking.</p>	<p data-bbox="770 1196 1326 1308">It's important to know the symptoms of meningitis. Get more info from @NHSuk</p> <p data-bbox="770 1344 1259 1382">http://nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis</p>




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 <p>How is MenB transmitted?</p> <p>The bacteria that causes MenB can only be passed to others after a long period of close contact, for example living with someone in shared accommodation, through prolonged kissing or sharing vapes and drinks.</p>	<p>It's important to know how MenB spreads. Get more info from @NHSuk</p> <p>http://nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis</p>
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Meningitis vaccines

Asset	Suggested post copy
<p>Video with Dr Vanessa Saliba, who explains how the MenB vaccine works</p> 	<p>The MenACWY vaccine is routinely offered to teenagers in the UK, but it does not protect against MenB, the strain behind the recent meningitis outbreak in Kent. This is why we are offering the MenB vaccine to certain eligible groups, our Consultant Epidemiologist, Dr Vanessa Saliba explains the protection it offers in this video.</p> <p>📌 The vaccine is an additional protective measure alongside the preventive antibiotics, so it's important to take the antibiotics even if you are offered the vaccine.</p> <p>Find out more in our blog post. 📄</p> <p>https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/18/meningitis-b-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know/</p>
<p>Video with Dr Vanessa Saliba, explaining why you should get the MenB vaccine if you are eligible, even if you have had the MenACWY vaccine</p>	<p>Our Consultant Epidemiologist, Dr Vanessa Saliba, shares why we're rolling out the MenB vaccine when teenagers receive a vaccine that protects them against meningitis. Here are some more facts on the MenB vaccine:</p>



The MenB vaccine teaches your immune system how to fight the MenB bacteria.

You will need 2 doses of the vaccine for protection. The 2nd dose can be given at least 4 weeks after the first dose, but can be given later.

It takes at least 2 weeks from your second dose to give you a good level of protection.


It has significantly reduced MenB disease since its introduction in 2015.

Find out more in our blog post.
<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/18/meningitis-b-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know/>

Public health resources

The following resources which can be used across various settings can be downloaded or ordered for free via the [Find public health resources website](#).

If you a health professional or work for a local authority, you can order up to 500 copies as long as you are registered on the website. If you are a member of the public, you will be able to order up to five copies. If you are having any trouble ordering, please email publichealthresources@ukhsa.gov.uk.

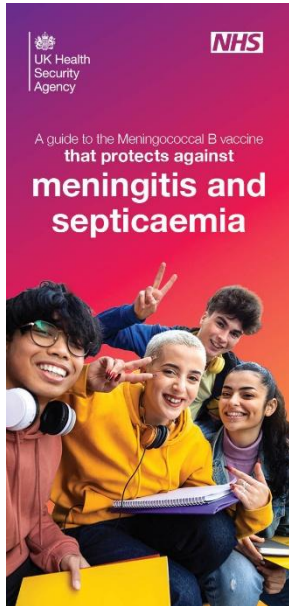
Resource	Resource information
<p>Quick two page guide to protecting yourself against MenB</p>  <p>A guide to the MenB vaccine that protects against meningococcal group B (MenB) disease</p> <p>What is MenB disease? MenB disease is a serious illness caused by group B strains of meningococcal bacteria. These bacteria are a major cause of meningitis. Inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord and septicaemia (blood poisoning) in teenagers and young people.</p> <p>Meningococcal infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can come on suddenly can progress very quickly can be fatal can leave survivors with life long disabilities <p>How are meningococcal bacteria spread? The bacteria live in the throats of about 10% of healthy people. They do not spread easily but may be passed on through close prolonged contact, for example within families or between partners, probably by coughing, sneezing or kissing.</p> <p>How common is MenB disease? Meningococcal disease occurs in cycles, with between 100 and 1,000 children and adults in England developing MenB disease every year. Around half of these cases occur in children under two years of age, with rates in highest risk, followed by six to seven year old young adults.</p> <p>Cases of meningococcal disease due to strains other than MenB are how best (but still) treated with antibiotics. In the UK, a vaccine is offered a vaccine against groups A, C, W and Y at school, but this vaccine will not protect you against MenB.</p> <p>Can MenB disease be treated? Meningitis and septicaemia need urgent admission to hospital and rapid treatment with antibiotics. If treatment is started quickly, there is a much less likely to be life threatening or cause permanent disability. If you think you or someone around you has symptoms of meningitis or septicaemia you should trust your instincts and get urgent medical advice by calling NHS 111.</p> <p>Is this vaccine safe? The MenB vaccine has been thoroughly tested and meets strict safety criteria. It has been routinely used in the infant vaccination programme in the UK since 2015 and has a good safety profile.</p> <p>The vaccine is called Bexsero and more information about it can be read here: https://www.medicines.org.uk/medicines/products/Bexsero</p> <p>Does the MenB vaccine have any side effects? Some people may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have a temporary fever have redness, swelling or tenderness where they had the injection, or experience a sore throat <p>These normally clear up within 1 or 2 days of vaccination. You can take a dose of over the counter paracetamol 1 to 2 hours after vaccination to alleviate symptoms if you have them.</p> <p>If you think you or someone around you has symptoms of meningitis or septicaemia you should trust your instincts and get urgent medical advice by calling NHS 111.</p> <p>Reporting side effects MenB serious side effects are rare but suspected side effects can be reported to the Yellow Card scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> online at Yellow Card Scheme downloading and using the Yellow Card app for Apple devices or Android devices by calling the Yellow Card scheme on 0800 731 0388 (text to 508) 	<p>This quick guide to how to help to protect yourself from MenB with the MenB vaccination should be given to students and staff and anyone eligible for MenB vaccination. There is also a consent form, record card, longer leaflet and digital poster which can be ordered or downloaded.</p> <p>Who it's for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public • Health professionals • Young adults <p>Product code: 1 3345 EN 001</p>



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A guide to the meningococcal B vaccine leaflet



This guide to the MenB vaccination to protect against meningitis and septicaemia should be given to anyone eligible for a vaccination. The vaccine is offered to close contacts and anyone in the risk group. There is also a Men B vaccination record card, consent form and quick guide available to order.

Who it's for

- General public
- Health professionals
- Young adults

Product code: **1 3343 EN 001**

MenB vaccination card



This record card should be given to anyone who has received one dose of MenB vaccine to remind them to attend the clinic for their second dose of vaccine to complete the course. Each pack contains 25 cards.

Who it's for

- GP surgeries
- Health professionals
- Young adults

Product code: **1 3344 EN 001**

MenB vaccine consent form

This MenB vaccination consent form should be used by health professionals offering the vaccination to risk groups. There is also a quick guide and a leaflet which can also be ordered.

Who it's for

- Health professionals
- Young adults

Product code: **1 3346 EN 001**



You can read the MenB vaccine leaflet at <https://go.nhs.uk/MenBex> or by scanning the QR code.



Meningitis B vaccination consent form

Surname:	Forename:	Date of Birth:
Address & Postcode:		Gender: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
GP Surgery:		Mobile Phone number:
Email:		NHS Number:

Important medical information

Have you received Meningitis B vaccines previously? Dates: Yes No

Have you had a **severe anaphylactic** reaction to vaccines? Yes No

Do you take any prescribed medications? Yes No

Do you have any long-standing medical conditions? Yes No

* If you answered yes to any of the above, please give details:

Consent

Yes, I consent to receive the meningitis B vaccination course:

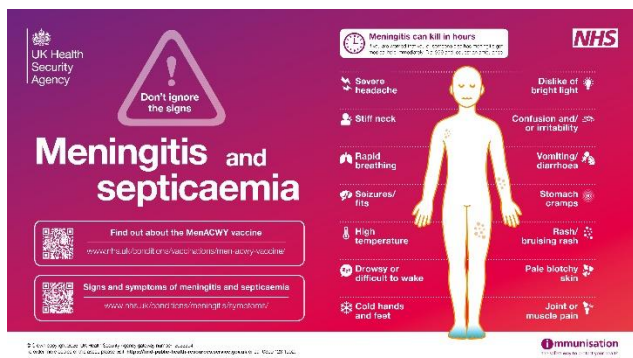
Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

	Date:	Time:	Site of IM injection (please circle)	Batch number & Expiry date:	Immuniser:	Location:
1 st Meningitis B vaccine as per PGO			L R			
2 nd Meningitis B vaccine as per PGO			L R			

Nurses' Comments:

The signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia - digital screens



These graphics should be used on digital display screens to notify the public of the signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia. For posters displaying this information for use on noticeboards and where digital displays are unavailable please see product code: **IM23DISP1**

Who it's for

- General public
- GP surgeries
- Headteachers and supporting staff
- Secondary school
- Young adults

Meningitis: Don't ignore the signs and symptoms posters

This poster describes the warning signs of meningitis, so that teenagers and young people, know what to look out for if they or someone they know falls ill. It should be displayed in common areas, in areas such as university halls, college common rooms, classrooms and meeting places as well as appropriate healthcare settings.

Who it's for

- GP surgeries
- Health professionals
- Secondary school



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<p>Meningitis and septicaemia</p> <p>Don't ignore the signs</p> <p>Severe headache</p> <p>Stiff neck</p> <p>Rapid breathing</p> <p>Seizures/ fits</p> <p>High temperature</p> <p>Drowsy or difficult to wake</p> <p>Cold hands and feet</p> <p>Dislike of bright light</p> <p>Confusion and/ or irritability</p> <p>Vomiting/ diarrhoea</p> <p>Stomach cramps</p> <p>Rash/ bruising rash</p> <p>Pale blotchy skin</p> <p>Joint or muscle pain</p> <p>Meningitis can kill in hours</p> <p>Find out more:</p> <p>Find out about the MenACWY vaccine</p> <p>Signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia</p> <p>immunisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young adults <p>Product code: IM23DISP1</p>
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