

Children and Young People Services
School Improvement Team
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way, Fletton Quays
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

14th July 2026

Dear Year 13 students, parents and carers,

From **20th July 2026**, the NHS is offering a **free MenB vaccine** to help protect against meningitis and septicaemia. These are rare but very serious illnesses which can develop quickly and may be life-changing or fatal.

This is a **one-off, time-limited MenB vaccine offer** for everyone in the school Year 13 age group, whatever you're planning to do next, and for under-25s starting university or moving into a residential further education setting for the first time in autumn 2026.

You can have the MenB vaccine if you are:

- born between **1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008**, which is the school Year 13 age group; or
- born **on or after 21 July 2001** and starting as an undergraduate at university **for the first time** in autumn 2026; or
- born **on or after 21 July 2001** and living in further education accommodation or halls of residence **for the first time** in autumn 2026.

The national NHS MenB vaccination booking service is expected to open on **13 July 2026**. Appointments will be available at participating community pharmacies, with **first appointments from 20 July 2026**.

You can book directly through the NHS MenB vaccination booking service if you're 17 or 18 years old and born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008:

nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-a-menb-vaccination-appointment

You do not need to contact your GP to book.

Two doses of MenB vaccine are needed for protection. The second dose should be given **at least 4 weeks, or 28 days**, after the first dose. It then takes around two weeks after the second dose to build good protection. If you are going to university or living in halls at a further education college for the first time, **please aim to have both doses before you go.**

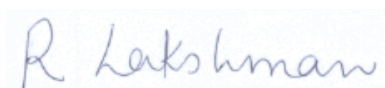
The MenB vaccine **does not** replace the MenACWY vaccine that many students will already have been offered at school, as that vaccine protects against different meningococcal bacteria.

Further information about the MenB vaccination programme is available from the UK Health Security Agency:

ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/06/12/who-is-eligible-for-the-new-one-off-menb-vaccine-programme

Even after vaccination, it is important to know the signs of meningitis and septicaemia. The vaccine protects against most strains of MenB, but not every cause of meningitis or septicaemia. **Do not wait for a rash**, as this can be a late sign or may not appear at all. If you or a friend are seriously ill or getting rapidly worse, **call 999 or go to A&E**. Further information about meningitis is available at: nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis

Yours sincerely,



Dr Raj Lakshman
Director of Public Health
Peterborough City Council



Carrie Traill
Service Director for Education
Peterborough City Council



Are you eligible for the MenB vaccine?

Find out more:
You can read the leaflet here:
qrco.de/havemenb



