

School Aged Immunisation ServiceWayside House
Wilsons Lane
Coventry
CV6 6NY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the very sad news of two recent deaths in Kent linked to meningitis (strain B), we wanted to share some helpful information about meningococcal disease and the vaccinations available to protect against it.

Meningitis is a serious illness that affects the brain and spine. It is usually caused by an infection, such as Meningococcal disease. It can make someone very unwell very quickly. Signs can include a high temperature, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and feeling very sleepy.

Meningitis can affect anyone, but young children and teenagers are at higher risk.

It is important to get medical help straight away if you are worried.

- Many routine vaccinations protect against meningitis including MenB, DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB, PCV, MMRV and Men ACWY vaccines
For more information please see: [Meningitis - Vaccination - NHS](#)

The **MenB vaccine** was introduced in 2015 and is now routinely offered to babies at:

- 8 weeks
- 12 weeks
- 1 year

The MenB vaccine is **not** routinely offered to children over 2 years of age Children **born before 2015 would not** have received this vaccine as part of the NHS schedule. It is however available privately.

More information about the recent outbreak can be found here

[Meningitis B outbreak: what you need to know – UK Health Security Agency 18 March 2026](#)

[Who is eligible for the MenB vaccine and do I need it myself? – UK Health Security Agency 20 March 2026](#)

Eamonn Kelly - Chair
Mary Mumvuri MBE – Acting Chief Executive Officer

The **MenACWY vaccine** for older children and young people:

The MenACWY vaccine, which protects against four strains of meningitis (A, C, W and Y), is routinely offered to young people in **Year 9** through the school-based immunisation programme. It cannot be given before Year 9.

This programme will begin in schools after Easter:

- Those in years 10 and 11 who missed it can still receive it in school or at their GP
- Those who are older and missed it can still receive it up to 25 years of age via their GP

If you are concerned about the health of a child or yourself, please seek medical advice from your GP, 111, or 999 in an emergency.

If we can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

School-Aged Immunisation Service

Children's Directorate

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