

31st July 2026

The Pharmacy Manager
The Practice Manager

Dear Colleague,

Can You Help Raise Awareness of the MenB Vaccination Programme for Students?

You will be aware of a new, time-limited Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Programme which has recently been launched to help protect eligible young people against meningococcal B disease ahead of the 2026 academic year. The programme is being delivered through participating community pharmacies, with many pharmacies across West Yorkshire now offering the vaccination.

All students who have just completed Year 13, (born between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008), are eligible for the MenB vaccination, regardless of future education plans, as well as those born on or after 21st July 2001 who will either be attending university as undergraduates for the first time in autumn 2026 or starting at some further education colleges.

Students eligible for vaccination based on date-of-birth alone, (born between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008), will be contacted directly by the NHS via the NHS App, text message, email or letter, depending on the contact details held.

However, for many of these young people, this may be the first communication they have received from the NHS, and as we know, important messages can easily be overlooked or put aside during the busy summer period following exams. Feedback from a recent MenB Vaccination Clinic held at a local college highlighted some of the challenges in reaching this group:

- None of the students had downloaded or were using the NHS App.
- Appointments had been **booked by parents** rather than the students themselves.

Additionally, we are aware that despite the NHS communications campaign, many people are still unaware of this MenB vaccination offer.

Students entering their first year of university are at a significantly higher risk of meningococcal disease due to increased social mixing and shared living accommodation. Receiving both doses of the MenB vaccine before starting university is one of the most effective ways to help protect them.

We are therefore writing to you to ask for your support in helping raise awareness of this important vaccination programme and to encourage your eligible patients to arrange vaccination at a participating community pharmacy.

How You Can Help

In addition to the [national communications](#) which can be used to support the programme, we would be grateful if you could also consider sending text messages to eligible students, **and where appropriate their parents or carers**, highlighting the importance of receiving the MenB vaccination and the opportunity to access it conveniently through participating community pharmacies. Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire has included some suggested text message wording at the end of this letter, which practices are welcome to use or adapt as appropriate.

Who is Eligible for Vaccination?

The MenB vaccine is being offered to the following groups:

- Individuals who were born between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008.
- Individuals who were born on or after 21st July 2001 and are starting university for the first time in Autumn 2026, including international students.
- Individuals who were born on or after 21st July 2001 and will be starting at some further education colleges for the first time in Autumn 2026 as a residential student, including international students.

To support discussions with patients and families, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published a [blog](#) answering common questions about the vaccination offer.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to protect young people across West Yorkshire.

Yours faithfully,



Nicola Goodberry Kenneally
Chief Executive Officer
Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Suggested Text Message Templates

For Parents/Carers	For Students Born Between 1st September 2007 & 31st August 2008:
NHS Reminder: The NHS is offering a one-off MenB Vaccination Programme to help protect young people at higher risk of meningitis (see here). If you have a child that has just completed Year 13 (born 1 Sept 2007–31 Aug 2008), or was born on or after 21 July 2001 and is starting university or residential further education for the first time this autumn, please encourage them to get vaccinated. Year 13 students can book at www.nhs.uk/book-menb. Eligible students starting higher or further education should attend a participating community pharmacy. Find one at www.nhs.uk/menb-walk-in.	NHS Reminder: As a student that has just completed Year 13, you're eligible for a free MenB vaccination to help protect against meningitis and septicaemia. Book your appointment at www.nhs.uk/book-menb or visit a participating community pharmacy. Find your nearest pharmacy at www.nhs.uk/menb-walk-in
	For Young People Born on or after 21 July 2001: NHS Reminder: Going to university or college for the first time this Autumn? Don't leave without your free MenB vaccination. It helps protect against meningitis. Visit a participating community pharmacy – find your nearest at www.nhs.uk/menb-walk-in.