

Town Hall, Walthamstow, London, E17 4GG

18th March 2026

Dear colleagues,

Re: Outbreak of Invasive Meningococcal Disease in Kent

Dear colleagues,

As we have received a couple of queries in relation to the national news around the ongoing outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in Kent, we are providing this brief update. At present, we are not aware of any transmission beyond the identified cluster, and no specific action is required for Waltham Forest. We are monitoring the situation closely, and receiving regular communications from UKHSA, and will update you if this changes.

UKHSA have updated that a number of cases in this outbreak have been identified as Men B; vaccinations for this have only been offered to infants since 2015, so anyone with an earlier birthdate is very unlikely to have been vaccinated.

For any students or individuals linked to the cluster in Kent, those who are eligible for prophylactic antibiotics should already have received antibiotics or a letter with instructions for their GPs. UKHSA advises that individuals should collect antibiotics if they attended the Chemistry Nightclub in Canterbury on 5, 6 or 7 March. It is appropriate for GPs to provide prophylactic antibiotics for close contacts of a probable or confirmed case, in line with UKHSA guidance, for anyone who states they attended the Chemistry nightclub on those specific dates, lives on specific halls of residence and has received direct communication from UKHSA or their university to that effect.

Information for the general public can be found [here](#), and the attached image provides key messages.

If you are asked about vaccination, GP practices are able to deliver vaccines that were missed as part of the standard schedule (i.e Men B vaccine to children before their 2nd birthday; MenACWY to anyone who missed this school-age vaccine before their 25th birthday). Otherwise, the Men B vaccine is currently generally only available privately. We understand that a targeted Men B vaccination campaign is being organised in Kent, but we don't anticipate any indication of a role for local GP practices around that.

We will continue to keep you informed as the situation develops. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us,

Best wishes,

Joe McDonnell
Director of Public Health, London Borough of Waltham Forest

