

Date: 7 July 2026

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Dear Parents, Carers and Year 13 students,

## Protecting young people against meningococcal B before the 2026 academic year

I am writing to provide important information about a new one-off NHS meningococcal B (MenB) vaccination programme for eligible young people ahead of the 2026 academic year, and to urge those who are eligible to arrange their vaccination as soon as possible.

Meningococcal disease is rare but can be life-threatening and may cause meningitis or septicaemia. Young people starting university are at increased risk because bacteria can spread more easily through close contact in shared accommodation and social settings. Eligible students need two doses of the MenB vaccine 4 weeks apart, for protection before the start of the academic year.

### Who is eligible?

- Students who completed Year 13 in summer 2026 and were born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008.
- People aged under 25 who are starting university for the first time in autumn 2026.
- People aged under 25 who are moving into residential further education settings for the first time in autumn 2026.

All eligible Year 13 students can receive the vaccine, regardless of whether they are planning to go to university or college. Students who have previously received the MenACWY vaccine should still have the MenB vaccine if they are eligible, as MenACWY does not protect against MenB disease.

Further information about the MenB programme, eligibility and local vaccination appointments is available on the NHS Essex webpage:

<https://www.essex.icb.nhs.uk/news/protect-yourself-against-menb-before-university/>

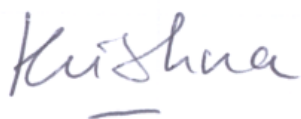
The webpage includes details of participating community pharmacies offering the MenB vaccine. A list of Southend pharmacies offering vaccination appointments is also attached to this letter to help students and families find a convenient local site.

### **What should students and families do now?**

- Check whether you or your young person is eligible for the MenB vaccination programme.
- Visit the NHS Essex webpage for the latest information or use the attached list of Southend pharmacies to identify a convenient local vaccination site.
- Book or attend vaccination as soon as possible, allowing enough time for both doses before the start of the academic year.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of meningitis and seek urgent medical advice if you are concerned.

Thank you for your support in helping to protect young people in Southend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krishna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Krishna Ramkhelawon**  
Director of Public Health  
Southend-on-Sea City Council

## **Southend Pharmacies offering MenB Vaccination**

- Asda Pharmacy, North Shoebury Road, Shoeburyness, Southend-on-Sea, SS3 8DA
- Bansals Pharmacy, 178 The Broadway, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3ES
- Belfairs Pharmacy, 327 Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4LT
- Boots, 801 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2PP
- Boots, Unit G48, Victoria Shopping Centre, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5SA
- Bridgwater Pharmacy, 84 Bridgwater Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0DH
- Earls Hall Pharmacy, 8 Earls Hall Parade, Prince Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6NW
- Elmsleigh Pharmacy, 185 Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4JH
- French's Chemist, 1723-1725 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2SW
- Great Wakering Pharmacy, 62 High Street, Great Wakering, Southend-on-Sea, SS3 0EQ
- Haveela Pharmacy, North Road PCC, 183-195 North Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7AF
- Howells & Harrison, 235 Woodgrange Drive, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2SG
- Kalsons Chemist, 138 Hopleythick Lane, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0RJ
- Leigh Broadway Pharmacy, 31 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SW
- Leigh Road Pharmacy, 87 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1JN
- Murray Miller Pharmacy, 526 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5PW
- Osbon Pharmacy, 372 Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 5PT
- Queensway Pharmacy, 61 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2NL
- Rays Pharmacy, 47 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5PB
- Reliance Pharmacy, 5 West Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9AU
- Reliance Pharmacy, 779 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9SU
- Southchurch Pharmacy, Unit 6, Blyth House, 535 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AY
- Superdrug Pharmacy, 37-41 High Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1JD
- Vinods Pharmacy, 227 Hamstel Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4LB