Meningitis outbreak linked to the University of Kent and the area of Canterbury
24 March 2026

Leeds LMC recognises the distress and significant impact of the meningitis outbreak and extends our thoughts to everyone affected and our condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

We know the outbreak is putting pressure on frontline services, particularly for our colleagues going above and beyond in general practice and public health, and we are grateful for your efforts. As students return home for the Easter break, there may also be students in other areas seeking advice from GPs and local public health teams.

Practices are advised to consult UKHSA, NHSE for advice and liaise with their local public health teams and directors in the case of any queries.

We're also aware there can be wider impacts on medical students, GP and public health registrars and medical educators. The BMA is continuing to monitor the situation and we are here to support you, including through our wellbeing services.

The General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association has been in discussion with UKHSA, DHSC and NHSE about resourcing for Men B vaccination and prophylaxis in General Practice, and NHSE has now written to Practices to offer MenB vaccinations upon request to a small cohort of patients who cannot access vaccination at local vaccination clinics at the University of Kent.

As of 19 March, vaccination has been extended to everyone who has been offered preventative antibiotic treatment as part of the outbreak.

At the present, this includes

a. Students at the University of Kent who are normally resident on the Canterbury Campus, including those who have now travelled home. Some staff living or working in these halls of residence have also been offered antibiotic prophylaxis.

b. students in relevant halls of residence or other private dwellings who attend other universities in Canterbury and have been advised to take an antibiotic due to a close contact

c. Individuals who attended Club Chemistry from 5 March until it closed voluntarily on 16 March.

Anyone in the eligible groups above can be vaccinated across the country.

Signs and symptoms of meningitis
NHS England letter to GP practices
UKHSA advice for practices

LEEDS LMC
Local Medical Committee