

MenB vaccine time limited vaccination offer: information for healthcare practitioners

Common questions and issues

Introduction

This document should be used to support healthcare professionals in the implementation of the MenB vaccination programme for young people.

Full programme details, including professional training slides, can be found within the professional resources section of the PHA website: [Information for healthcare and other professionals | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Information relating to the programme will be added regularly. Please check back to the live version of this document on the website for further updates.

For further help and support, please contact pha.immunisation@hscni.net

Eligibility

1. I just finished Year 14 – am I eligible for the vaccine?

Yes – everyone in the date of birth range between 02/07/2007 to 01/07/2008 is eligible for MenB vaccination.

2. I left school after Year 12 and am aged 18 (date of birth between 02/07/2007 and 01/07/2008) – am I eligible?

Yes – everyone in the date of birth range is eligible, regardless of their intention to start higher education.

3. I just finished Year 14 (date of birth between 02/07/2007 and 01/07/2008) but I'm planning to take a gap year and/or not going to university in September – am I eligible?

Yes – everyone in the date of birth range is eligible, regardless of their intention to start higher education.

4. I left Year 14 in academic year 2024/25 and took a gap year before starting university – am I eligible?

Yes – if you are attending undergraduate Higher Education or living in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence for the first time in Autumn 2026 in Northern Ireland, you are eligible.

5. I am moving to attend university in Northern Ireland from England and left school in English Year 13 (date of birth between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008) – am I eligible?

Yes – if you are attending undergraduate Higher Education or living in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence for the first time in Autumn 2026 in Northern Ireland, you are eligible.

6. I am moving to attend university in England/Scotland/Wales and left school in English Year 13 (date of birth between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008) – am I eligible?

Yes – if you were born after 21/07/2001 and are attending undergraduate Higher Education or living in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence for the first time in Autumn 2026 in England, Scotland or Wales, you are eligible.

7. I am in my 2nd year at university. I lived at home last year but I'm moving into residential halls this academic year 2026/27 – am I eligible?

No, you are not eligible. Those returning to continue studies aren't at as high a risk as students entering higher education for the first time – the combination of age, susceptibility and close mixing with new people increases MenB risk.

8. I am in my 2nd year at university. I lived at home last year but I'm moving into a shared student house this academic year 2026/27 – am I eligible?

No, you are not eligible. Those returning to continue studies aren't at as high a risk as students entering higher education for the first time – the combination of age, susceptibility and close mixing with new people increases MenB risk.

9. I did a degree (or part of a degree) outside the UK but I'm starting UK university for the first time – am I eligible?

Yes - if you were born after 21/07/2001 and are attending undergraduate Higher Education or living in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence in the UK for the first time in Autumn 2026, you are eligible. Evidence of offer must be provided.

10. I live in Northern Ireland and applied to/plan to attend university in the Republic of Ireland – am I eligible?

Yes - residents of Northern Ireland who are attending undergraduate Higher Education or living in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence for the first time in Autumn 2026 in Republic of Ireland are eligible.

11. I am a postgraduate student starting in academic year 2026/27 – am I eligible?

No, you are not eligible. Those returning to continue studies aren't at as high a risk as students entering higher education for the first time – the combination of age, susceptibility and close mixing with new people increases risk.

12. I live outside of the UK and plan to attend university for the first time in Northern Ireland – am I eligible?

Yes – if you are attending undergraduate Higher Education or living in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence for the first time in Autumn 2026 in Northern Ireland, you are eligible, regardless of whether or not you are usually resident in Northern Ireland or are registered with a local GP practice. This includes those from Republic of Ireland.

13. I live in Northern Ireland and plan to attend university for the first time outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland – am I eligible?

No – the Government have agreed to offer MenB vaccination based upon the epidemiological risk to students and young people in the UK. Students attending universities outside of the UK/ROI should adhere to the advice provided by their chosen university, or check the [National Travel Health Network and Centre website](#) for further information.

However, you **would** be eligible if your date of birth is between 02/07/2007 and 01/07/2008.

14. I am already aged over 25 (date of birth before 21/07/2001) and going to university for the first time – am I eligible?

No, you are not eligible. Risk of MenB is significantly lower in individuals aged over 25 years, and as such individuals over this age are not eligible for this one-off priority vaccination programme.

15. I am under the age of 18 but starting residential further education for the first time e.g. CAFRE – am I eligible?

Yes – if you were born after 21/07/2001 and plan to live in further education accommodation or further education halls of residence for the first time in Autumn 2026 in England, Scotland or Wales, you are eligible.

16. What proof of eligibility is required for those attending university?

To be eligible, individuals will need to be born on or after 21st July 2001 and plan to attend a higher education or residential further education institution.

The individual should present evidence of their intention to attend, such as:

- official email confirmation of their offer of a place at their chosen university or college from either the higher education institution directly, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS; for universities in the UK) or the Central Applications Office (CAO; for universities in Republic of Ireland)
- a letter (hard copy or email) confirming they have received an offer of a place for the 2026/2027 academic year at their chosen university or college
- a letter (hard copy or email) confirming they have received an offer of a place for the 2026/2027 academic year at their chosen university or college
- screenshot of their offer of a place at their chosen university or college from the UCAS Hub or the official CAO website.

The relevant evidence should include the name of the university or college that they are due to attend, the course code and/or title of the course of study, and confirmation of the offer of a place (either conditional or unconditional).

Those outside of the date of birth cohort and attending a university/college outside of UK/ROI are not eligible for the programme.

17. I've already been to university but did not finish the course. I am restarting my university course as a first year this autumn, am I eligible?

No, you are not eligible. Those returning to continue studies, even if it is as a first year, aren't at as high a risk as students entering higher education for the very first time – the combination of age, susceptibility and close mixing with new people increases risk.

Vaccination Programme

18. Can I give a young person from Northern Ireland their first dose of vaccine, even if they plan to attend university in England/Scotland/Wales before dose 2 is due?

Yes – dose 1 should be given and recorded on the Vaccine Management System (VMS). It is important that you record dose 1 on the record card provided by the Public Health Agency as this will provide evidence of dose 1 if they attend for vaccination outside of Northern Ireland. The same vaccination programme is in place in England, Scotland, Wales and the Crown Dependencies. Further information on where to get vaccination in the other nations can be found at the following links:

England:

- Booking service: [Vaccination services - NHS](#)
- Further information: [A guide to Meningococcal B vaccination for eligible young people - GOV.UK](#)

Wales:

- Further information: [MenB vaccine for young people - Public Health Wales](#)

Scotland:

- Further information: [Meningococcal B \(MenB\) vaccine for young people | NHS inform](#)

19. I received my first dose of vaccine outside of Northern Ireland (e.g. England/Scotland/Wales) – can I receive dose 2 in NI?

Yes – while the first dose will not be recorded on the Vaccine Management System (VMS), the young person may provide proof of dose 1 from the record card (similar to the image below). Dose 2 should be given if the young person is eligible.



Name:	
1st dose	
Vaccine given:	Date:
2nd dose	
Vaccine due:	Date:
Immunisation the safest way to protect your health	
© Crown copyright 2026. Produced by UKHSA Gateway Number: 20251189. Product Code: 13344EN001. To order more copies of this record card visit https://find-public-health-resources.service.gov.uk/ or call 0300 123 1052.	

20. I have already started my university course, can I still be vaccinated?

Yes – first doses of the vaccine **must** be given up to and including 31st December 2026. Second doses must be given by 31st March 2027. The vaccine will not be available after this

date. If you do not receive your first dose before the end of December, you are no longer eligible.

21. I can't remember if I had one dose of the vaccine or not – how many doses should I receive?

If the individual is uncertain as to whether they have received MenB vaccine previously, they should be offered a 2-dose course of vaccination with Bexsero® rather than risk leaving them unprotected. In clinical trials, no increase in the incidence or severity of the adverse reactions to Bexsero® vaccination (commonly pain at the injection site, malaise and headache) was seen with the administration of further doses.

22. I received a first dose of MenB under a private arrangement. I am in one of the eligible cohorts – can I receive my second dose free of charge from HSC?

Yes - if an individual has only received a single dose of MenB vaccine previously, a second dose should be given a minimum of 4 weeks after that dose to complete the course. There is no need to restart the course, irrespective of the timing of their previous dose

23. I received my first dose of MenB from my GP; do I need to go back to the same location to get the second dose or can I go somewhere else?

You do not need to get your first and second dose of MenB from the same healthcare setting. After a minimum of 4 weeks since your first dose, you may choose to receive your second dose from your GP or attend a participating community pharmacy or a pop-up Trust clinic. To find out which community pharmacy are offering the MenB vaccine closest to you, and when pop-up Trust clinics are occurring, use the [link](#).

Remember to bring your proof of eligibility, and your vaccination record card when getting vaccinated.

24. I am eligible for the MenB vaccine and am starting university / college for the first time in NI but have not registered with a local GP practice – can I still get the MenB vaccine?

Yes – There are a select number of community pharmacies offering the MenB vaccination. To find out which community pharmacy are offering the MenB vaccine closest to you visit NiDirect using the [link](#). You do not need to get your first and second dose of MenB from the same healthcare setting.

25. I am registered with a GP close to my home. Can I attend a GP nearer to my university address for my vaccine?

GPs will be offering the vaccine to their registered (including temporally registered) patients. Selected [community pharmacies](#) will be offering the vaccine.