

Date: 17th March 2026

Dear colleagues

Subject: Meningitis update and routine vaccinations

We are writing to further update you following the recent meningitis outbreak in Kent. We want to reassure everyone that there are currently no related cases in Croydon, and the risk to local residents remains low. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is supporting the affected school community in Kent and monitoring the situation closely.

Please do share the letter and attached leaflets with your families.

Meningitis symptoms to look out for

Although the risk in Croydon is low, it's important that people are familiar with the symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia. These illnesses can come on quickly, and early treatment with antibiotics is vital.

Early symptoms, which may not always be present, include:

- a rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass
- sudden onset of high fever
- severe and worsening headache
- stiff neck
- vomiting and diarrhoea
- joint and muscle pain
- dislike of bright lights
- very cold hands and feet
- seizures
- confusion/delirium
- extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking

If anyone develops any of these symptoms, seek urgent medical help immediately. For advice, contact your GP or call NHS 111. In an emergency, call 999 or go directly to A&E.

Staying protected

The best way to reduce the risk of meningitis and other serious infections is to ensure that all children and young people are up to date with their routine vaccinations. These vaccines protect against different causes of meningitis and septicaemia and are offered free of charge by the NHS.

The South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service (CYPCIS) is currently offering the 3-in-1 teenage booster (aka DTP vaccine) and the Meningitis ACWY vaccine to students in year 9 (aged 13-14) and MMR vaccine to any student, in any school year, who has missed one or both doses.

Most of the clinics require parents to book an appointment. This can be done by contacting:

- **Tel:** 020 3903 3360
- **Email:** krft.croydonimms@nhs.net
- Or by **using this link:** <https://cypcis.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/dtp/2025/book> to book an appointment.

If you are unsure whether your child is up to date with their vaccinations, please check their Red Book, or if you have any questions, please contact your GP.

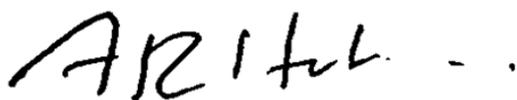
We will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further updates if needed.

Further information on meningitis and childhood vaccinations can be found at the below links:

[Meningitis - NHS](#)
[Meningitis Research Foundation](#)
[Meningitis Now](#)
[Vaccinations](#)

Thank you for your support in helping us keep children and young people safe.

Yours faithfully,



Ruth Hutchinson
Director of Public Health, Croydon



Shelley Davies
Director of Education, Croydon