

**Re: Meningitis - Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccination (MenACWY)
Measles – Measles, Mumps Rubella vaccination (MMR)**

We would like your help in raising awareness of the need for MenACWY and MMR vaccination this summer and to encourage eligible students to take up the vaccination(s) at their GP surgery.

MenACWY vaccine is now being offered by GP practices to year 13 school leavers (teenagers born between 01/09/1998-31/08/1999).

The MenACWY vaccine helps protect against several forms of meningococcal disease which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). These conditions can kill in hours and those who recover may be left severely disabled.

Since 2009, there has been a large increase in one kind of meningococcal disease (MenW) that this vaccine covers. Please note that although eligible students may have had a MenC vaccination before, they should still have their free MenACWY vaccine as this gives the extra protection needed. Students should be vaccinated as soon as reasonably possible and before they go on to further or higher education.

MMR vaccine helps protect against measles mumps and rubella and, if not up to date, young people should get this at the same appointment.

Last year there were 52 confirmed measles cases that were known to be linked to music and arts festivals in England and Wales. There are currently several large and serious measles outbreaks across Europe.