

Upcoming MenB Drop-In Support Sessions

The East of England Vaccination Programme team is hosting 30-minute drop-in Q&A sessions. You do not need to stay for the entire window—drop in, get your query answered, and jump off when ready:

The next drop-in session is this evening, **Wednesday 22nd July, 6.30-7 pm** – [Click to join](#). If you cannot join tonight, there are still a couple more sessions that may be more convenient for you.

Wednesday 29th July, 1-1.30pm – [Click to join](#)

Tuesday 4th August, 6.30-7pm – [Click to join](#)

A few teething issues, but off to a strong start - MenB Service

The rollout of the new Meningococcal B (MenB) Vaccination Service launched on Monday, 20th July 2026. Across the East of England region, over 1,400 young people were vaccinated on Day 1 alone—a massive achievement delivered at impressive speed across our network of 260 participating Essex community pharmacies.

With any service stood up at this pace, early admin and technical issues are to be expected. Thank you for your continued patience while regional teams and platform support work to resolve these issues as they surface. Below is an operational update addressing the main queries and technical details raised during the first 48 hours of service delivery.

Important Updates & Fixes

The pharmacy contractor must administer at least 10 vaccines between 20th July and 30th September 2026, or the Commissioner may suspend the supply of vaccine.

You would have recently received details recently saying to ensure that your **NHS Profile Manager** is up to date and manage your vaccine supply to allow for walk-in activity or locally booked appointments for this cohort.

PLEASE NOTE: MenB information is not a service that a pharmacy can edit via the Profile Manager – it will automatically appear on the profile page if you have registered as offering this service. The information for profile manager is managed centrally using a list of actively participating pharmacies. Once a pharmacy has raised their first order for vaccine, MenB will be added to Profile Manager within a few days. As such, there is no action required for pharmacies in relation to this point.

1. National Booking Service (NBS) Eligibility & Cohort Routing

Age-Eligible Cohort (17–18 years old / Born 1 Sept 2007 – 31 Aug 2008): **Can** book appointments directly via the National Booking Service (NBS).

University / Residential Further Education Cohort (Born on or after 21 July 2001): NBS booking is **not currently available** for this group. These individuals must access the service via walk-ins or locally arranged pharmacy appointments using the Pharmacy Services Finder.

If vaccine stock is fully allocated to pre-booked NBS appointments when a student walks in, it is entirely acceptable to book them into a local appointment for a later date or direct them to another nearby participating pharmacy.

2. Booking Second Appointments on NBS

The NBS cannot currently process a second appointment booking on the same day the first dose is administered.

Patient Advice: Advise age-eligible patients that they can log back onto the NBS from the morning after their first dose to book their second dose appointment (ensuring at least a 28-day gap between doses). Technical teams are exploring options to streamline this process.

Best Practice: Avoid scheduling or accepting bookings on the expected day of delivery unless you have sufficient stock remaining from previous orders to buffer potential delays.

For ongoing updates, guidance links, visit our dedicated MenB page on our website. As always, contact the office team if you require additional support.

Autumn/Winter 2026/27 COVID-19 & Flu Vaccination Programmes

A reminder that any pharmacy who did not sign up for the Spring 26 COVID-19 programme and wishes to register for the Autumn campaign can do so via **Manage Your Service – NHS BSA**. All pharmacies who submit an application to the NHS Business Services Authority before 31st July 2026 will be assured supply of COVID-19 vaccine for the start of the Autumn programme. If your pharmacy was signed up for delivery of COVID-19 in Spring 2026, there is no further action for you currently.

Dates for Diary

Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 8th September at 7.30 virtually. Details will be circulated by the end of July with voting papers

Annual Conference - Sunday 13th September – “Pharmacy 101” please hold this date, ALL team members are invited

Morning session will cover CORE, REGULATORY and LEGAL aspects of running your pharmacy: “What you need to do and Why”

Afternoon session – Pharmacy Training and Education, including vaccination training