New information for students in schools and sixth form

MENINGITIS AND SEPTICAEMIA

You may have heard of MenC and MenB as causes of meningitis and septicaemia – now there’s an increase in MenW infection as well

• Meningitis and septicaemia can kill very quickly
• Cases caused by meningococcal W (MenW) bacteria are increasing in the UK
• All age groups are being affected but teenagers and young adults have a higher risk of meningococcal disease
• A vaccination programme is being introduced to provide added protection against MenW and to reduce the spread of the disease to others
• The MenACWY vaccine that will be used will protect against 4 meningococcal groups (A, C, W and Y) and will start in schools in September 2015
• Even if you have already had a MenC vaccine you should have the MenACWY vaccine
• If you’re in school years 9 to 13 (aged 13-18 years) you’re in a high risk group, so make sure you don’t miss out on your vaccination
• Contact your GP or Practice Nurse to discuss/arrange for your vaccination.
• If you are going to university in 2015, go to your GP to get the vaccination before you go but if you miss out register with a GP at uni and get the vaccination there

For more information, speak to your school nurse or your doctor, or visit www.gov.im/meningitis, www.meningitis.org or www.meningitisnow.org