

## **Meningococcal ACWY Vaccinations**

There are a number of year 11 students in school who have missed having their Men ACWY vaccination when the school nursing immunisation team came into school.

Since 2009, there has been a large increase in group W meningococcal (MenW) disease in England, resulting in several deaths in teenagers. Around a third of MenW cases in unvaccinated 15-19 year olds have been fatal.

Headache, high temperature and diarrhoea and vomiting are initial symptoms of flu but these can also be some of the early signs of meningitis and therefore treatment is not always sought straight away.

Meningococcal disease can cause meningitis (inflammation of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). This vaccine will help protect your son/daughter.

Even if a young person has had a MenC vaccination before they still need the MenACWY vaccine as this gives them the extra protection against MenW they need.

**If you would like your son/daughter vaccinated, please call the School nursing immunisation team on 01296 566063 to book an appointment at a catch up clinic**

Finally, if your son/daughter is not up to date with the **MMR vaccine** which helps protect them from measles mumps and rubella you can get this at the same appointment. More information about both vaccines can be found at the NHS Choices website or through speaking to the Immunisation team or your GP surgery. These vaccinations are free and may save your child's life

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

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