



Meningitis outbreak in Kent

[Healthy Suffolk - Healthy Suffolk](#)

Kent is currently experiencing a significant outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease, primarily affecting young people linked to the University of Kent and local schools. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has identified several cases between 13–17 March, with two deaths. The illness has been severe and fastmoving, prompting rapid public health action including contact tracing, targeted antibiotic prophylaxis and vaccination for high risk groups.

As Students break up for Easter and travel home it's important that the public are aware of signs and symptoms and a message has been sent to the health system across England advising on signs to look out for among patients and treatment options and to report any possible cases.

In the event that the Suffolk system is required to stand up a response, we have tried and tested necessary response frameworks with Local Resilience Forum (LRF) partners.

The most important steps to take at this stage are to be alert to the signs and symptoms of invasive meningococcal disease and encourage uptake of antibiotic treatment to those who are eligible.

Additionally make sure that children stay up to date with all their routine vaccinations, as these offer important protection.

All information related to Meningitis, Vaccinations and resources related to this outbreak can be found on the Healthy Suffolk Website.

[Childhood Vaccinations - Healthy Suffolk](#)



What NHS / Public Health in Suffolk is doing

Public Health Suffolk and NHS partners are closely monitoring the situation and receiving regular updates and briefing notes from UKHSA. Local actions already underway include:

1. Preparing and coordinating communications for Suffolk universities, colleges, schools and partners, including sharing UKHSA briefings, symptom awareness materials, and vaccination information.
2. Updating the Healthy Suffolk website with clear information on meningitis, symptoms, testing, and vaccine eligibility, supported by locally developed resources. This includes a video from one of the toolkits which is of a student talking about their experience with meningitis whilst at university. Within her message she highlights how important the vaccine may be and urges people to get it if they have not already had it. This will be used to direct to the page and will add SCC as a collaborator on social media so it extends the reach of the post.
3. Ensuring relevant NHS and council teams, including Health Protection, IPC, emergency planning, and CYP teams are briefed and aligned through ongoing multi-agency meetings and UKHSA updates as needed.
4. Circulating UKHSA's latest national cascade alerts and stakeholder communications to Suffolk system partners, ensuring rapid situational awareness and readiness to respond should any Suffolk links emerge.
5. As always Public Health are promoting vaccination uptake and the public to contact their GP and come forward if they have missed any vaccinations.

To report any potential cases please contact UKHSA

To contact the East of England Health Protection Team (HPT) at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), you can email them at: eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk

For further inquiries, you can also reach them at Tel: 0300 303 8537.