

Meningococcal risk status

**Invasive meningococcal disease: advice for the PNH Service**

You may be aware of an evolving situation involving multiple cases of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) reported among young people linked to the University of Kent and the Canterbury area.

Between 13 and 17 March 2026, UKHSA identified 20 cases of invasive meningococcal disease in the South East. Six cases have been confirmed as *Neisseria meningitidis* group B.

The PNH team would like to reassure patients we don't advise any change in practice currently.

Please be vigilant and look for any signs of infection including a fever. If you experience any change in symptoms or are feeling unwell please contact the PNH team or local provider for advice.

All patients on complement inhibitors (eculizumab, ravulizumab, crovalimab, iptacopan, pegcetacoplan, danicopan or trial therapy) have a slight increased risk of meningococcal infection. Although you will have been vaccinated against meningococcal strains including *Neisseria meningitidis* group B. And prescribed prophylactic antibiotics (penicillin V, erythromycin).

You should also be given an emergency course of antibiotics (ciprofloxacin). Please ensure it is in date, and you carry with you if travelling.

Have a low threshold to ask for advice.

The strain is penicillin / erythromycin susceptible, so if on Penicillin V or erythromycin prophylaxis that will work.

Carry on as per usual guidance no changes currently advised.