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To: Schools and education BHCC

Meningococcal outbreak Kent

As you may have seen in the press, there is an outbreak of meningococcal disease group B (MenB) in Kent. Sadly, this includes two young people who are known to have died. Understandably, this will cause concern in Brighton and Hove and students and staff may be feeling worried about the risk of this disease.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is leading the response, and Brighton & Hove's Public Health team is staying in close contact with them and local partners. The control measures put in place in Kent are aiming to prevent further cases. **There are currently no cases of this infection linked to the Kent situation in Brighton & Hove**. It is important to remember that meningitis spreads through close and usually prolonged contact. School pupils should continue to go to school and do their normal activities unless directly advised otherwise by the local health protection team.

The current eligibility (outside of the Kent response) for the meningococcal vaccines is:

- One dose of Men ACWY vaccine is offered in school from school year 9 and can be offered as catch up (via SAIS clinics or GP practice) until the young person's 25th birthday.
- Men B vaccine is only offered routinely to infants at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 1 year of age and can only be offered as catch up until their 2nd birthday.

It is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the infection, which can found via the following links:

- What is meningitis? Symptoms, risks and how to protect yourself

- Meningitis

Symptoms to look out for and updates on the national and local situation can be found here.

If you feel that this information is appropriate for your school community, please do pass it on to your families.

Yours sincerely   .

Dr Nicola Lang
Director of Public Health