

To: All New Students

May 2017

Dear Student

Meningococcal ACWY and MMR Vaccination for new students

As you may be aware there has been a small increase in the rate of meningococcal meningitis or septicaemia in recent years. It is still an uncommon condition but young people attending higher education for the first time, especially when living in halls of residence or other shared accommodation, are at a greater risk of this disease particularly in the first few weeks of their first term at university.

Immunisation against Meningitis C has been part of the UK immunisation programme for some years but a new vaccine is available against Meningitis AW&Y as well as Meningitis C and the Department of Health have strongly advised that students up to the age of 25 should receive this **before** coming to University.

Please Note: To achieve maximum protection you should have been immunised against Meningitis ACWY before attending the University, and we would urge you to see your family doctor to receive this as soon as possible, as the sooner you receive the immunisation the better your protection will be at the start of term. If you are unable to receive this immunisation in your home area we will be able to carry this out on your arrival.

If you are attending university for the first time and have never received a Meningitis C vaccine, regardless of your age, you should have a Meningitis ACWY immunisation **before arrival**.

During the last few years, a number of Universities including Kent, have seen an increase in cases of Mumps amongst students and **recently we have an outbreak of this illness on campus affecting a significant number of students**. This can be a debilitating infection in young people with the possible risk of complications and those who become ill are isolated hence disrupting their education. You will also be aware of the increased cases of measles in England in recent months. Department of Health advice is that all those entering higher education should have had **TWO** immunisations against measles, mumps and rubella (known as MMR). Please, therefore, ensure that you are fully immunised before you arrive at the University. If you have not been immunised, please arrange this with your family doctor.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mike Norman
Senior Medical Officer