



Singlewell School

Mackenzie Way Gravesend

Kent DA12 5TY

Telephone: (01474) 569859

Email: office@singlewell.kent.sch.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mr Murray

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Broad

18 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will be aware of the cases of Meningococcal Disease outbreak in Kent.

Yesterday evening we received updated information from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and I would therefore like to provide an update for all parents:

Key points

- So far 15 cases have been identified and they centre around contact with the 'Chemistry' nightclub in Canterbury and specific University of Kent halls of residence.
- Transmission rates are known to be very low and only through prolonged physical contact such as kissing, sharing vapes, sharing drinks or living in close proximity with a carrier.
- UKHSA are contact tracing known associates of carriers of the disease.
- The risk for our students is extremely low as we are not aware of any students in contact with known carriers.

In light of the above the Department for Education advice is to continue all activities as normal, including attending school, trips and events.

However, we remain vigilant for any increased risks and part of this is looking out for possible symptoms in our students/staff. For this purpose, we have been asked to share the following from the UKHSA:

What UKHSA is doing

- UKHSA is leading the response and working with several partners.
- They are identifying close contacts of confirmed cases and giving out antibiotics.
- Some of the people who became unwell had visited Club Chemistry in Canterbury between 5–7 March.
- If you visited Club Chemistry on 5, 6 or 7 March, UKHSA advises you to get preventive antibiotics.

What parents and students need to do

- Know the symptoms of meningococcal disease.

Symptoms to look out for

Seek urgent medical help if you notice any of these signs:

1. A rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass
2. Sudden high temperature
3. Severe, worsening headache
4. Stiff neck
5. Vomiting or diarrhoea
6. Joint or muscle pain
7. Dislike of bright lights
8. Very cold hands and feet
9. Fits or seizures
10. Confusion or unusual behaviour
11. Extreme sleepiness or difficulty waking up
12. Meningococcal disease can get worse very quickly, so don't wait if you're worried.

We hope that the above provides some clarity and reassurance. If you have any further questions please feel free to email office@singlewell.kent.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Murray
Acting Headteacher