



PRESS RELEASE

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VACCINATION AGAINST MENINGITIS C FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS

The Government is introducing vaccination against meningitis C for students who are about to start university, as a means of protection against this disease.

Meningitis vaccination has been routinely given to infants in Gibraltar for many years. However, research has shown that the protective effect of the vaccine may wane as the child grows. Young persons who enter into higher education for the first time usually move into areas where people live closely to each other, such as university halls of residence and shared accommodation, where they are exposed to unfamiliar bacteria. They would benefit from the protection offered by a single dose of Meningitis C vaccine.

All Gibraltar students who are about to leave for University enrolment in the coming term are eligible. However, those who have already received vaccination against Meningitis C within the last three years do not require the vaccine.

Eligible students may call in for immunisation at the Child Welfare and Immunisation Clinic without appointment at the Primary Care Centre, ICC building, on the following dates and times:

Friday 12th September; Friday 19th September; and Friday 26th September;

Timings : 9:00AM to 11:00AM and 2:00PM to 4:00PM

Priority will be given on the first date (12th September) for those who are leaving for university on or before the 19th September. Students with later joining dates are requested to use the other two dates.

Students who are leaving on or before the 12th September are advised to contact the Immunisation department to arrange a suitable appointment. Similarly, students who are



unable to present themselves during these periods may phone the Immunisation service for an alternative appointment subject to availability. Students who are unable to receive the immunisation before they leave may also get themselves immunised while abroad. However, the providers may charge a fee for this service.

One cautionary note to remember is that the vaccine only protects against Meningococcal disease of the Type C. It will not protect against the Type B, which can cause serious illnesses. Hence, even if vaccination has been taken, people should still be on the alert for the well-known symptoms of meningitis, although their risk should now be lower.

For more information, please contact the Child Welfare & Immunisation clinic in the Primary Care Centre on 20007844.