



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

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The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Our Ref: MP11196

25 March 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to raise urgent concerns on behalf of constituents in Stratford-on-Avon regarding access to the Meningitis B vaccine, and to press for immediate action to improve both its availability and affordability.

I have been contacted by families and young people across the constituency who are increasingly anxious about their ability to access this potentially life-saving vaccine. University and college students are a particular concern, as many are living away from home for the first time and are in environments where the risk of transmission is higher. Despite this, many are finding it difficult to secure vaccination when they actively seek it out.

Given these concerns, I urge the Department to ensure that Meningitis B vaccine stockpiles are made available as a matter of urgency within the UK for those who wish to receive it. Priority should be given to university and college students. At present, there is a clear mismatch between the level of public health risk and the reality of access.

I am also deeply concerned about the cost of the vaccine when accessed privately. For many families in Stratford-on-Avon, the current price places it out of reach. This creates an unacceptable situation in which protection against a serious and fast-moving disease depends on the ability to pay. It is difficult to justify this position when the consequences of infection can be so severe.

I understand that decisions on widening NHS eligibility have been referred to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. While I appreciate the need for clinical guidance, there is a clear case for urgency. I would be grateful for clarity on the expected timeline for advice, and whether any interim measures are being considered to address the immediate risks facing young people.

In the meantime, I strongly encourage you to meet with Meningitis Now, which has been calling for teenagers and young people born prior to 2015 to be offered the Meningitis B vaccine on the NHS. Their work with affected families highlights the very real human impact behind these policy decisions.

This is a preventable disease with devastating consequences. The current gaps in access risk leaving too many young people exposed. I would urge the Department to act with the pace and seriousness this issue demands.

I would be grateful for your response on the steps you intend to take.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Manuela Perteghella'.

Dr Manuela Perteghella MP
Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon