

Boots MenB Vaccination Service – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Which vaccine is used for the Boots MenB Vaccination Service?

The Boots MenB Vaccination Service uses a vaccine called Bexsero®.

How many doses of Bexsero do I need?

A full course consists of two doses administered at least 4 weeks apart.

How is the vaccination given?

The vaccine is administered by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. It is advisable for you to wear a top with short or loose-fitting sleeves for the appointment.

Will I need a booster dose?

A booster dose can be administered at least two years (24 months) after the second dose, but this is optional. If you are interested in the booster dose, please ask the vaccinator for more information.

How effective is the vaccination?

The MenB vaccine is very effective. It's estimated that it protects against almost nine in every 10 types of meningococcal group B bacteria circulating in the UK*.

*<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/meningitis-b-vaccine>

Does the vaccine have any side effects?

Although side effects are common, they're usually mild – such as fever (a temperature greater than 37.5° C) in children aged 10 years and under, and a headache and/or joint pain in those aged 11 years and upwards. A sore or red patch on the arm, where the injection has been given, is also common. The healthcare professional will ask you to wait behind for five minutes after the injection, just in case there are any immediate adverse reactions. It's a good idea to keep an eye on things and have a thermometer and paracetamol, if it's suitable, at home, to help relieve a high temperature, a headache or any general aches and pains if necessary. In some individuals, rare side effects can happen. For more information about these, take a look at the Patient Information Leaflet. The healthcare professional will also talk to you about possible side effects, prior to vaccination.

Is it a live vaccine?

No, Bexsero® is an inactivated vaccine.

Does the vaccine contain egg?

No, there are no egg products in Bexsero®.

Is the vaccine suitable for vegetarians or vegans?

Very few vaccines are vegan and we are unable to guarantee that the vaccine is vegan friendly. The vaccine appears to be suitable for vegetarians.

Is the vaccine suitable to have whilst pregnant or breastfeeding?

The Boots MenB Vaccination Service isn't suitable for pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Can I have the vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations?

Bexsero® can be given at the same time as other vaccinations.

Can I have the vaccine if I take certain medicines or have a health condition?

As part of the consultation, we'll ask some questions about your medical history so that we can check that the vaccine is suitable for you.

Can I get a MenB vaccination on the NHS?

The MenB vaccine is offered as part of the [NHS vaccination schedule](#). It's given to babies at:

- 8 weeks
- 16 weeks
- 1 year

What are the symptoms of meningitis?

Meningitis

- Severe headache
- Sensitivity to bright lights
- Neck stiffness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Confusion and drowsiness
- Loss of consciousness
- Convulsions/seizures

Septicaemia

- Fever with cold hands and feet
- Joint or muscle pain
- Rapid breathing/grunting
- Stomach cramps and diarrhoea
- Red/purple rash, spots or bruises that don't fade under pressure

I've booked and paid for an appointment online. How do I change it?

You can change or cancel your appointment by going to My Orders in your account [here](#).

I've paid online but I no longer want the vaccination. Can I get a refund?

Yes, if you haven't yet had the appointment, you can cancel your order by going to My Orders in your account [here](#). This will refund the payment to your original payment method. Please allow up to 14 days for the refund to appear on your account.