



25 March 2026

**Via email**

Dear Parent/carer,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the recent meningitis outbreak across east Kent. I would like to reassure you that there are no confirmed cases across East Kent Colleges Group at present. We had one suspected case that has now been downgraded to possible, and that student is at home and recovering well.

I can fully understand that some of you may still feel concerned by the small number of individuals who have reported symptoms. However, following a thorough risk assessment that takes into account both the likelihood of infection and the risk of transmission, the UK Health and Security Agency has found no evidence of an increased risk to students. Therefore, there is no need for any students to stay away from college, as long as they do not exhibit symptoms. You can view the symptoms at our [dedicated webpage here](#).

This is a really important time of the year for our students, and there are risks associated with lost learning that could be significant. Therefore, I would urge you to ensure that your young person attends college as long as they feel well and do not have the symptoms of meningitis.

We will continue to engage with the UKHSA and the Department for Education, and follow the guidelines that they set as the situation progresses. We are updating our website with the latest news, so will ensure this is updated swiftly should the situation change, so please check that regularly.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy

**Lucy McLeod**  
Chief Executive Officer