



# Mass vaccination in a small island

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Inter Island Public Health Conference: Jersey

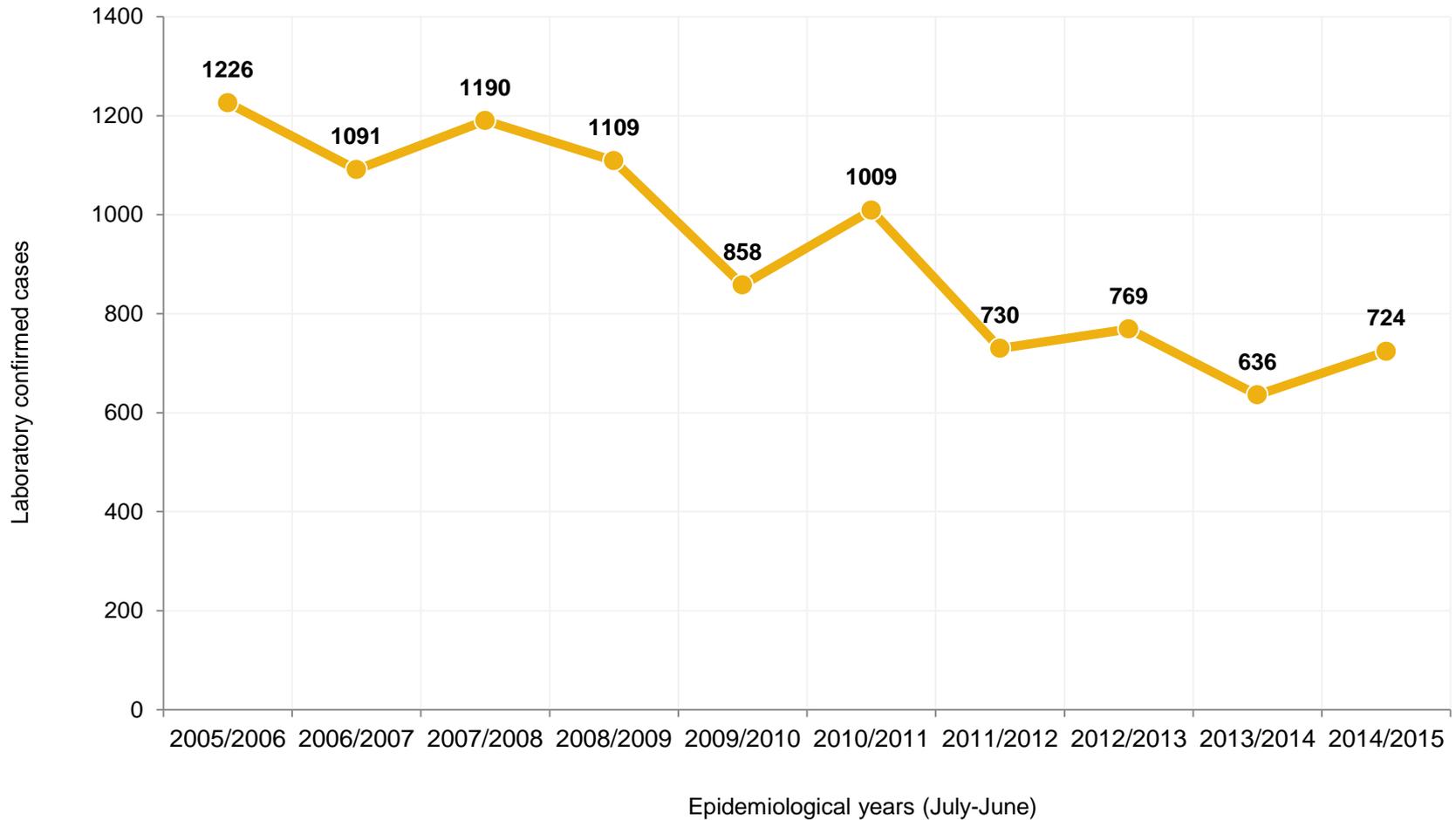
# The problem in 2015

- E&W accelerating numbers of meningococcal W disease cases across all age groups over past 2yrs
- Particularly aggressive strain causing meningitis & septicaemia
- PHE advised this constituted an outbreak
- As a control measure, JCVI advised an immunisation programme for all adolescents aged 13-18, including “freshers” up to age 25
- In Jersey, our aim was to prevent MenW reaching Islanders

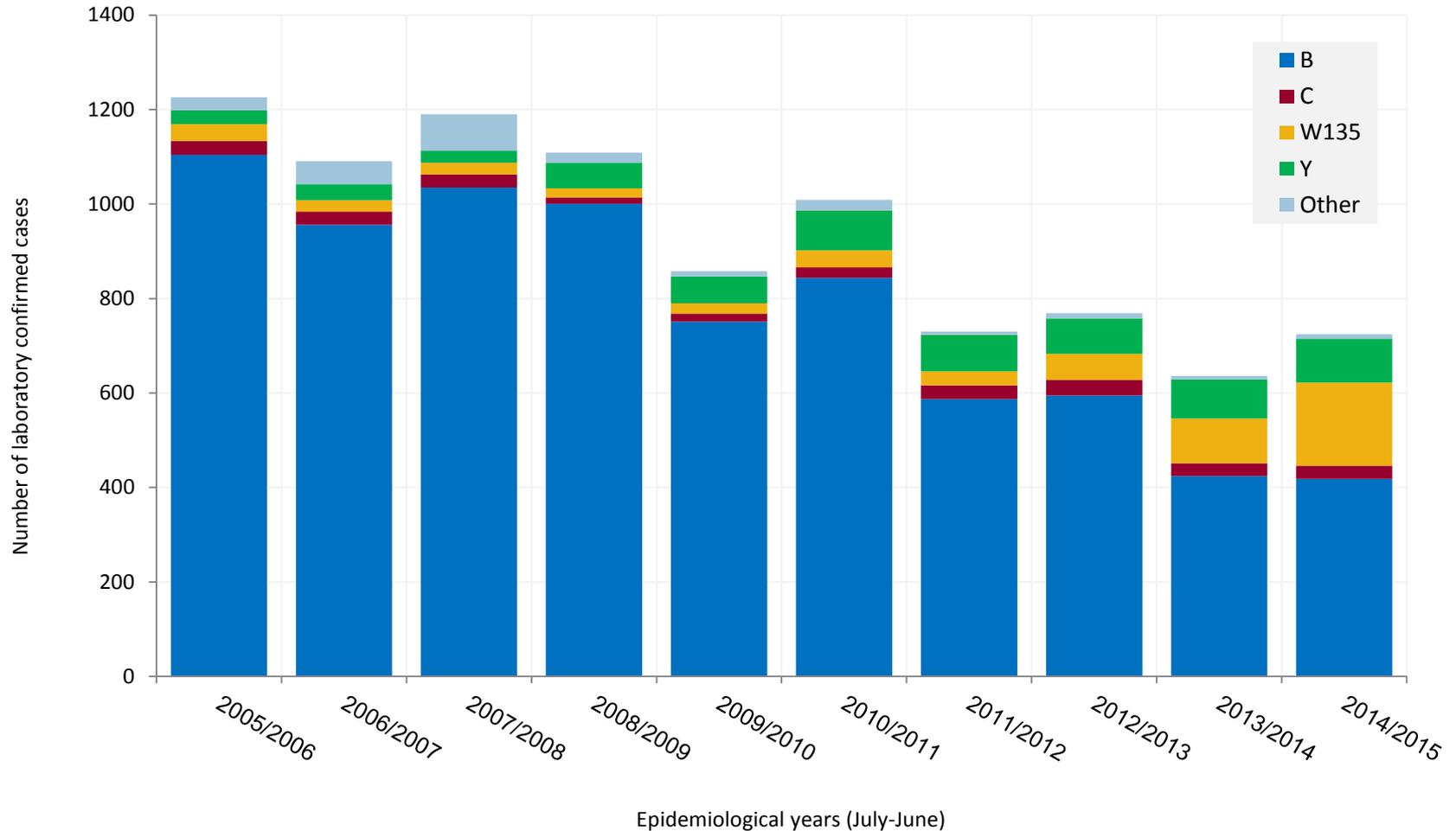
# Meningococcal disease

- Caused by invasive infection with bacterium *Neisseria meningitides*, known as meningococcus
- There are 12 capsular groups of meningococcus - groups B, C, W & Y were historically more common in UK
- Invasive meningococcal disease most commonly presents as meningitis or septicaemia and can affect all age groups, particularly children under 2
- Can lead to long-term health problems including deafness, epilepsy and amputations
- Meningococcal bacteria colonise the nasopharynx - between 5-11% of adults and up to 25% of adolescents carry the bacteria without any signs or symptoms

# Laboratory confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease in England, epidemiological years 2005/06 – 2014/15\*



# Laboratory confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease in England by capsular group, epidemiological years 2005/06 – 2014/15\*

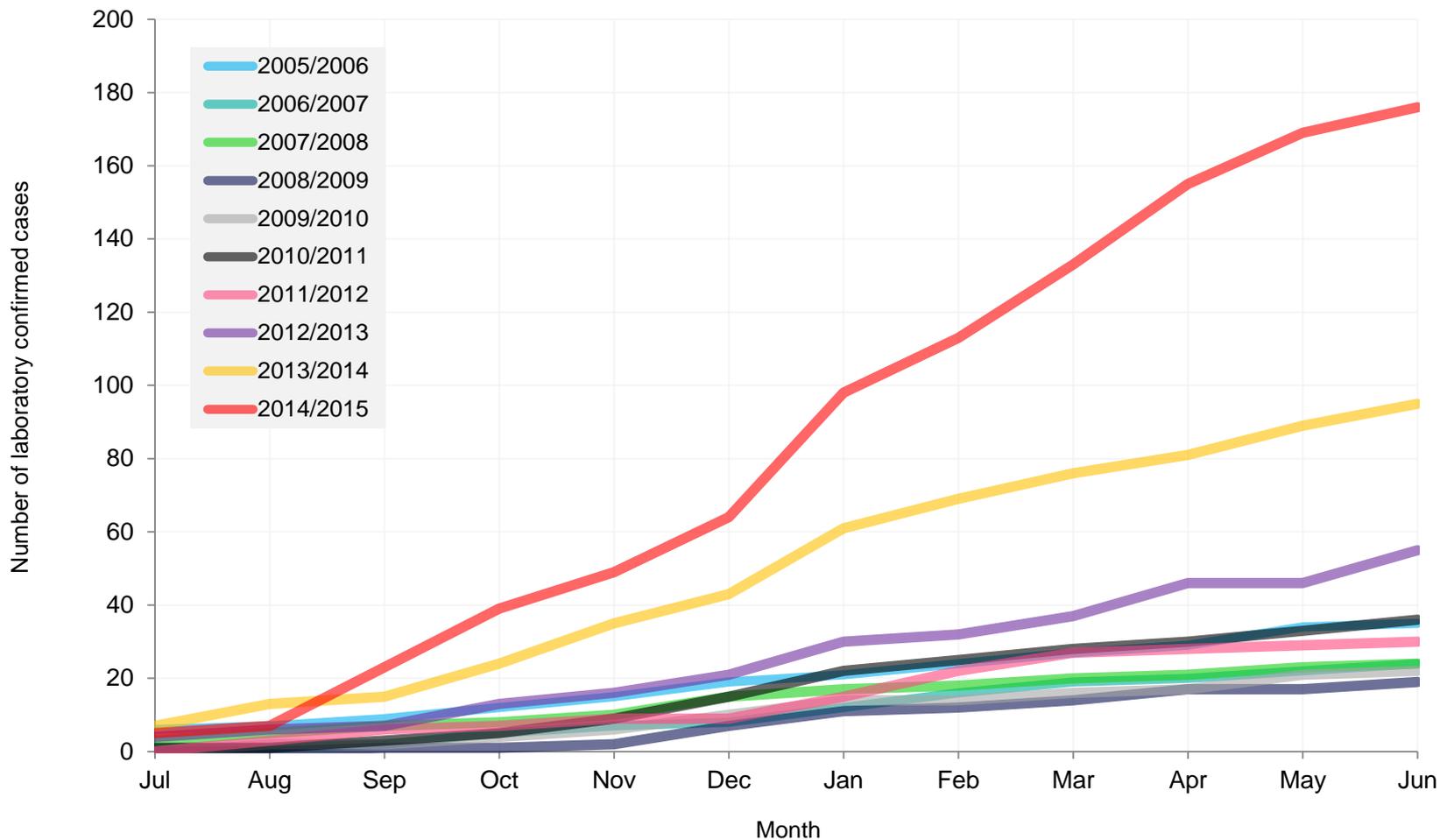


\*2014/15 data is provisional

Date source: PHE Meningococcal Reference Unit. Surveillance by PHE Immunisation Department – Last Update August 2015

Please see link for more information and data <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/meningococcal-disease-guidance-data-and-analysis>

## Cumulative laboratory confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease capsular group W (MenW) in England, epidemiological years 2005/2006 – 2014/15\*

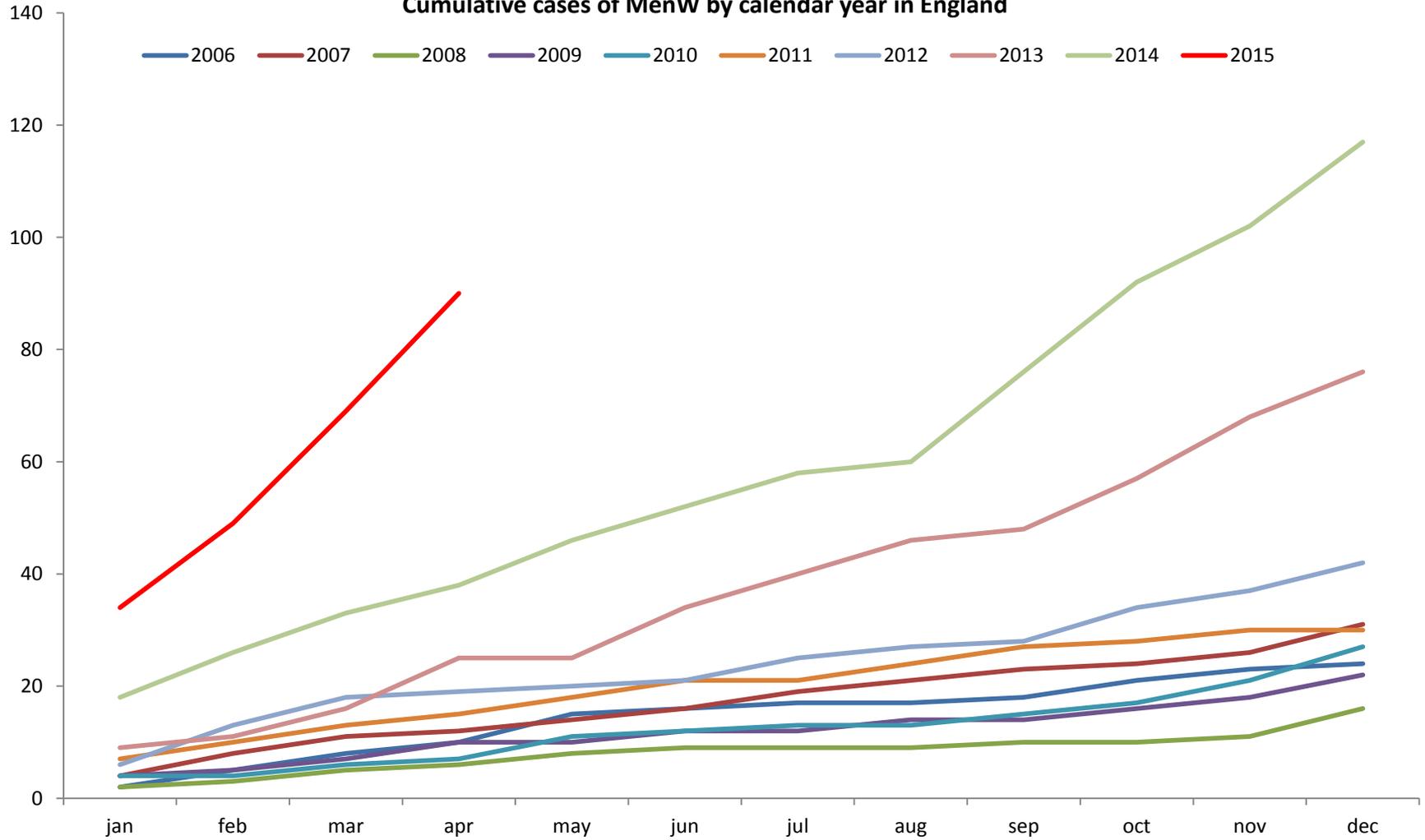


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### Cumulative cases of MenW by calendar year in England



\*2014/15 data is provisional

Date source: PHE Meningococcal Reference Unit. Surveillance by PHE Immunisation Department – Last Update August 2015

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# The plan: vaccinate adolescents to generate herd immunity

- MenW particularly aggressive, hyper-virulent strain, infection is fatal in 1 in 6 cases, now endemic in the UK
- JCVI - best option is to generate population level herd immunity, providing protection across all other age groups, including to infants who are most at risk
- JCVI recommended an immunisation programme for all adolescents aged 14-18yrs
  - Replacing the adolescent age 13/14 (yr 9) MenC dose with MenACWY
  - Offering adolescents aged all 13-18 years MenACWY vaccine as a catch-up programme
  - Offering MenACWY to university “freshers” up to age 25 years
- This would ensure direct protection against meningococcal C (as previously recommended) & capsular groups W, A and Y

# What we did

- Emergency vaccination campaign to prevent MenW getting a foothold in Jersey
- We told our public this was targeted at teenagers & young people - age group where most of the spread of infection occurs
- Aug 2015: Community hall setting to immunise Freshers & all 18 year olds
- Nov: vaccinated 4 school year groups
- MenACWY vaccine would be routinely offered to yr 9 (13/14 yr olds) in school each year thereafter

# How we did this

- Immunisation nurse specialist and team of 5 bank nurse immunisers
- PGD to enable nurses to vaccinate
- We update them annually with Paed/Adult BLS/anaphylaxis training
- Vaccine supply limitations in the UK- we got enough in August to do our 18yr olds/Freshers
- HSSD Pharmacy support - more supply in Nov
- Worked with Ed Dept, Comms, webteam
- Media interested in 'emergency campaign'

# Freshers up to 25 & 18 year olds

- 3 sessions (2 in Aug/1 in Sept 2015) – town centre
- 10-12 midday
- Emailed all parents whilst still in yr 13 via schools
- Info card given out when collecting A level results
- Aim to protect before they left the island
- No other pupils at these sessions – ID/proof of fresher status if older



625 vaccinated (of which 135 were older Freshers)

# Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 in Nov

- Informed all Headteachers via Education Dept
- Immunisation nurse visited each school in advance
- Emailed parents via schools to alert them
- Letter, leaflet, consent form sent out via schools
- Enlisted support of local person who lost their child to meningitis to speak to local media
- Media provided free 'advertising'
- We went into each school as team of 5/6 nurses
- Vaccinated 3200 pupils in schools in a fortnight
- Calm, structured, authoritative approach
- Drop in clinics in OPD for 'stragglers'

# In summary

- Around 4000 young people vaccinated
- All recorded on Child Health Computer by CH admin
- 86% of yrs 10, 11, 12 & 13 protected
- Our 'Freshers' were protected before they arrived at UK universities
- To date, no MenW cases in Jersey

**Any  
Questions?**

