



Public Health
England

Thursday 9 May 2019

To: School nurses, health visitors, nursery and childminder settings in Leeds

Measles cases in Leeds and importance of MMR vaccination

We have recently had confirmation of a small number of measles cases in Leeds. Measles is extremely infectious and can be serious for some people. Public Health England has the following advice. Please pass this information onto parents of children you're in contact with:

- The vaccine is routinely given at 1 year of age, with a second dose at around 3 years and 5 months, as part of the NHS Childhood Immunisation Programme. You can help protect yourself and your family by ensuring you've all received two doses of MMR vaccine in the past (or for children aged under 3 years 5 months, 1 dose). Please take this opportunity to check your child's red book, or contact your GP surgery to check if you're unsure.
- If you, or any other children in your family, aren't up-to-date with the vaccine, this can be arranged with your GP surgery. We are encouraging all people in Leeds to do this now, since measles has been confirmed recently in the city. It is never too late to vaccinate because measles may have serious complications regardless of age.
- Please remember to stay alert to the symptoms of measles, and if you have symptoms, stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. **STAY AWAY** from schools, nursery and childminder settings and GP surgeries and A&E departments – because measles is extremely infectious, you could spread the illness to others. **Symptoms include: high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.**
- Further information regarding measles can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Finally, please advise exclusion from schools or nurseries for any child with suspected measles for 5 days after onset of rash. Staff members can get MMR vaccine from their GP if they've not had two doses in the past. MMR vaccine can be given to adults of any age.

We would be grateful if you could display the poster provided with this letter in your building.

Yours sincerely,

Helen McAuslane, Consultant in Health Protection,
Public Health England



Measles is circulating

- We're seeing measles in Leeds
- Measles is extremely infectious and can be serious
- Make sure your children get two MMR vaccines on time; the first at 1 year of age and the second at 3 years, 4 months
- If you or your children missed these vaccines, it's not too late. Ask for the free vaccine from your family doctor (GP) if you or your children aren't up-to-date
- If you have symptoms of measles, stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. **STAY AWAY** from GP surgeries and A&E departments – you could spread the illness to others
- Symptoms include: high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms
- Go to [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) for more measles information

