

URGENT ADVICE TO PARENTS AND CARERS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND
ISSUED ON THE 26TH APRIL 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

We have been made aware that a member of the school community has been diagnosed with measles and your child may have been exposed to the infection. As there have also been confirmed measles cases in the area, we are sending you this letter as a precaution.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness and most children recover completely, however in rare occasions serious complications can occur.

The routine immunisation schedule in the U.K is two doses of MMR. The first is usually given from 12 months; the second at the age of 3 years 4 months to 5 years (pre-school). The MMR vaccination can be obtained from your own GP.

Because measles is circulating in the community we urge you to ensure that your child is protected with MMR vaccine as per routine schedule above.

Measles is highly infectious and can cause serious illness for some people who have certain health conditions.

Symptoms of measles include the following:

- **Cold-like symptoms such as runny nose, red, watery and painful eyes (conjunctivitis),**
- **High temperature,**
- **Aches and pains,**
- **Dry cough,**
- **Red-brown spotty rash that usually starts behind the ears and spreads to the head and neck on to the rest of the body.**

If your child has any of these symptoms it is very important to take the following steps to prevent spreading the disease to others:

- Please telephone your GP surgery in the first instance. It is also very important not to go to your GP Practice as you risk passing on the infection to others in the waiting room.
- Please keep away from school or nursery and other group settings (e.g. sports clubs, tuition centres, supplementary faith schools etc.) for five days from when the rash first appeared.

- You should also avoid them coming into contact with other persons who may be particularly vulnerable. The risk of very serious illness is especially greater in unborn babies of pregnant women, new-born babies, persons with HIV/AIDs, leukaemia and those on cancer drugs.

Public Health England and the Department of Health recommend that all children receive the first dose of the MMR vaccination at about the age of 13 months and a second dose at 3 yrs. 4 months - 5 years.

Further information about measles and MMR can be found in the attached document or by visiting <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

For Parents –some useful links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213839/dh_124026.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204793/DoH_8412_Measles_A5_07_School_accessible.pdf

Yours sincerely,

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