

Adults' Health and Care  
Public Health  
Elizabeth II South  
The Castle  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO23 8UQ  
Telephone 0370 779 5505  
Fax 01962 834560  
DX Winchester 2510  
[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Dear Colleagues,

### **Re Measles 2023 – your help is required**

Measles is now circulating in England and infections across Europe are likely to rise. Measles is an extremely infectious and unpleasant illness and can be severe, leading to life threatening illness and long term disability. It is preventable through vaccination.

The coverage of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine in our area is not sufficient to prevent spread and we are looking for your support in preventing local outbreaks.

#### **These actions will help**

- ✓ Ensuring all your staff are immune to measles.
- ✓ Encouraging unvaccinated staff to have the MMR vaccine.
- ✓ Ensuring people with a fever and rash illness are isolated.
- ✓ Being prepared to undertake contact tracing for measles exposures in your setting.

#### **Ensuring all your staff are immune to measles**

Immunity is necessary for staff to protect themselves and prevent them from passing measles to each other and their clients. Please check that your staff are protected, this means they have received two doses of measles containing vaccine, such as MMR and/or had a positive measles IgG antibody test.

#### **Encouraging unvaccinated staff to have the MMR vaccine**

MMR works well and is safe. Please encourage staff who are not immune to measles to see their GP to have the vaccination. Information leaflets are available here in [English](#), [Bengali](#), [Polish](#), [Romanian](#), [Somali](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Yoruba](#). Further information is also available here, for schools and other settings for young people in multiple languages. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-schools>.

#### **Ensuring people with a fever and rash illness are isolated**

The measles period of infectiousness starts from about 4 days before the rash and lasts up to 4 days after the onset of the rash. People with suspected measles should be advised to stay off nursery, school or work for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears.

Of note health care workers who are exposed to a confirmed or likely case and do not have satisfactory evidence of protection (2 documented doses of MMR or a positive measles IgG blood test) may be excluded from work from the 5th day after the first exposure to 21 days after the final exposure.

**Being prepared to undertake contact tracing for measles exposures in your setting, this can include isolation periods for unvaccinated care workers**

If a measles outbreak occurs we will need your help in identifying who has been exposed to the infection. Make sure you are ready to be able to share information about staff and client contacts if needed.

We are working with our comms and NHS colleagues to encourage uptake of MMR and make sure we are ready should any local outbreaks occur. Your support is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Public Health Team  
Hampshire County Council