

Our ref: MEO/ja

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that Measles cases are rising in England with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) declaring a National incident.

Measles is highly contagious.

The early symptoms of measles can look like other illnesses: runny nose; cough; conjunctivitis. The child may also have a high fever.

If your child has not been fully vaccinated with the MMR vaccine, now is a good time to get this done, to protect them. Vaccination is the best protection to prevent infection

You can check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations by looking at their personal health record (Red Book) or by asking their GP.

The MMR vaccination is free from the NHS with the first dose being offered when your child is 12 months old, and the second when your child is 3 years and 4 months old. 2 doses of this vaccine provides lifelong protection against measles.

It's important to catch up on any **missed** vaccines. You can ask your GP surgery for the MMR vaccine if your child is due their vaccination or has missed either of these 2 doses.

Measles is not just limited to children so protect your loved ones – People whose immunity is compromised, pregnant women and unvaccinated children are at increased risk of severe disease.

Any child thought to have measles should not be sent to school.

Where possible NHS 111 or the GP should be phoned for advice, rather than visiting the surgery or A&E. This is to avoid passing the infection on to others.

Further details about measles can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>.

Yours faithfully



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