

FAO:
Early Years Heads/Managers
Private Nursery Setting Managers

05.02.2024

Dear Head/Manager of Early Years Setting,

Re: Measles – Important information for staff working in early years settings

The UK Health Security Agency has recently declared a national incident following measles outbreaks in London and the West Midlands. They have indicated that we are highly likely to see cases spread, and I am writing to ask for your support to try to reduce the impact by helping to improve MMR vaccine uptake across Bolton.

Measles is highly infectious disease and spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated. Measles can be a very unpleasant illness and in some children can be very serious.

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is a safe and highly effective way to protect children from three infectious diseases: measles, mumps, and rubella. Two doses are required to offer the best protection.

The call to action for Early Years Settings is to:

1. Support the extended MMR catch-up vaccination programme by encouraging parents to check their children are up to date with MMR vaccination by either looking at their child's Red Book (personal child health record) or contacting their GP.
2. Share the message and leaflet below with parents and staff through newsletters and communications:

Due to recent outbreaks of measles elsewhere in the UK, The UK Health Security Agency has advised that it is likely that we will see measles cases in Greater Manchester. Measles is highly infectious and can cause serious health consequences. The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect from measles, mumps and rubella. Please check that your child has had their MMR vaccines, and if unsure speak to their GP. More information can be found at [MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it - Schools version \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

3. Ensure that staff are aware of the current situation so that they can consider their own MMR vaccine status. There is no upper age limit to offering MMR vaccine and adults who are not protected can speak to their GP about vaccination.
4. 'Think Measles': be familiar with the symptoms of measles and ready to isolate children with suspected measles quickly. This means keeping the child apart from others until they can be collected by a parent or carer. More information can be found in the attached leaflet and at [What to do if you think your child has measles](#)

[and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

I've included below a selection of links to helpful sources of information.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Lynn Donkin

Director of Public Health

Measles leaflet	MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it - Schools version (publishing.service.gov.uk)
MMR translated leaflet in different languages	Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Guidance for schools	Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Signs and symptoms	Measles - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
What to do if you think your child has measles	What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk)