



Dear colleagues,

**Re: Alert on measles cases in London**

There have been a number of confirmed cases of measles over the last three months in London. This is related to the numbers of susceptible people who are unimmunised or only partially immunised with MMR vaccine. Two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine offers full protection against the three illnesses.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness and can have severe complications. Children with measles are usually ill and in some circumstances complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis, can develop. Local authority Public Health departments and the local Health Protection Teams are working collaboratively to try and prevent any further cases.

Health care professionals across London have been informed of the increase in measles cases to ensure a prompt response to any new notifications.

Children who attend schools/nurseries/crèche are at increased risk of contracting measles. Public Health England London Centre advises that all children over the age of 12 months who are not immunised should be protected by receiving MMR. In an attempt to increase the general uptake of MMR vaccine, it is important to inform parents/guardians of the current situation and to encourage the uptake of MMR vaccination.

The attached letter outlines the key elements already highlighted above as well as directing them to appropriate services for further advice. I would be grateful if you could disseminate the attached letter to all schools and nurseries for distribution to parents.

Should you be notified of any suspected or confirmed cases of measles please do inform the local health protection team – if a new case is suspected the parents should be advised to contact their GP.

Thank you in advance for you co-operation.

Yours sincerely

*Deborah Turbitt*

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