

Dear Parent / Guardian

Increase in measles across Wirral – May 2026

There has been a rise in measles cases across the UK, in North Merseyside, and more recently in Wirral.

Measles is one of the most highly infectious diseases. Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated. While measles can be a very unpleasant illness, in some children it can be very serious and lead to hospitalisation – and in rare cases tragically can cause death. People in certain risk groups including babies and young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems, are at increased risk of complications from measles.

Key messages for Parents and Guardians:

- Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated
- **Having two doses of the MMR/MMRV vaccine is the best way to protect you and your child and help prevent measles spreading, especially to those most vulnerable.**
- Two doses of the MMR/MMRV vaccine give you excellent lifelong protection.
- **You can check your child's personal child health record (the Red Book) to see if vaccinations are up to date, speak to your GP if you aren't sure**
- **It's never too late to catch up. The MMR/MMRV vaccine is free on the NHS, whatever your age. Contact your GP surgery to catch up as soon as possible.**
- Immunisation doesn't just protect your child; it also helps to protect your family and the whole community, especially those under 12 months of age and [children who, for medical reasons, can't be immunised](#).
- Further information on can be found at: [MMRV \(measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox\) vaccine - NHS](#)

Most healthy adults will have developed some immunity to measles but can still receive two doses of the vaccine from their GP too.

Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

Anyone with symptoms is advised to stay at home (if well enough to do so) and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.

If you or a member of your family have a weakened immune system, are unvaccinated and pregnant, or are under 12 months of age, and have been in a setting at the same time as

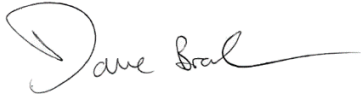
someone who is a 'likely' or 'confirmed' measles case, please seek advice from your GP or midwife and tell them that you / they may have been exposed to measles.

You can find further information on:

MMRV and other childhood vaccinations here: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them>

Measles: www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles

Yours faithfully,



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