



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Health Protection and Control of
Infection Unit**

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'The Council's Public Health functions are part of the health service under the National Health Service Acts'

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Dear Colleague

During 2019 the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership has been working closely with Public Health England (PHE), the local authority and the local NHS to respond to an outbreak of measles.

The purpose of this update is:

- To provide information about measles and the MMR vaccination
- To ask you to encourage your staff and parents/students to check that they have received 2 doses of MMR vaccination and if they are uncertain about their vaccination history, to check their vaccination records and if required organise vaccination with their own GP.

Information about measles

Measles is caused by the measles virus and is highly infectious. It begins like a cold with a runny nose, as well as a cough, fever, conjunctivitis (sore, red eyes). After about 2-4 days a rash begins over the face / head before spreading across the rest of the body. Measles is spread to others in the droplets of coughs or sneezes and is easily passed around families and communities if children and adults are unvaccinated. It can affect people of all ages but babies under one, pregnant women, and people with immunosuppression are at greatest risk of complications. Measles can cause serious infections such as meningitis and can cause long term complications – the FAQ sheet attached explains more about the risks.

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

The MMR vaccination

We are continuing to highlight the importance of having received 2 doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination to ensure individuals are protected from catching measles and to reduce the risk of transmission within communities. It is recommended that all adults and children are vaccinated with the MMR vaccine at thirteen months and again at the age of three years and four months. However, it is never too late to be vaccinated – you can be vaccinated at any age. For anyone who is unsure whether they are fully vaccinated with MMR, please ask them to contact their GP who will be able to advise them and arrange for vaccination if needed.

The 'MMR for all' leaflet can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet>

Further information

Attached is a question and answers sheet about measles and the MMR vaccine. Our contact details are at the top of this document.

Kind regards

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