

3rd May 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Measles and the importance of children having received 2 MMR vaccinations

We have been informed by Public Health England of one confirmed case of measles in a child who attends a school in West Sussex (or local to your area-audience dependent); Public Health England is investigating a number of possible further cases. The child is currently recovering from the illness.

We have been asked by Public Health England to communicate the following advice to you:

Measles can be a very serious disease, it is not (as some think) a trivial disease. It can also cause complications including ear infections, diarrhoea, pneumonia and convulsions. It is more likely to be serious in pregnant women, people whose immunity is not working properly and babies under a year of age. Very serious complications, such as inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) are rare, but can be fatal.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness spread by coughs and sneezes or by direct contact with an infected person. Anyone who is not protected by 2 MMR vaccines is at risk of catching the infection.

The first signs of measles are:

- Fever
- Cough, runny nose and red sore eyes
- After a few days, a spotty rash will appear. It starts on the face and neck before spreading to the rest of the body

If you think that you or your child has measles, ring your GP practice for advice. Do not turn up to your GP surgery, walk in centre or to a hospital accident and emergency without calling ahead. The doctor will make special arrangements so that if you or your child has measles – you won't pass it on to others.

Keep people with symptoms of measles away from others to avoid spreading infection. Stay away from school, nursery or work for 4 days after the onset of rash.

If you would like more information, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>
The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection and this can be accessed through your GP surgery:

Public Health England strongly advises that all parents ensure their children and young adults have been immunised with 2 doses of the MMR vaccine.

If you are concerned about your child's health please consult your General Practitioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anna Raleigh'.

Anna Raleigh
Director of Public Health