



## Children's Services Early Help and Schools

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Dear Headteacher,

Below is a message that has appeared in a recent DfE bulletin, which, given the media attention and potential workforce capacity implications, may be of use to schools.

### DfE Message

There have been recent localised outbreaks of measles centred around the West Midlands. There is a risk of further outbreaks in other areas unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination take up in areas with low MMR vaccine rates. Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The guidance indicates that the best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. It is never too late to have these vaccinations.

The following UKHSA guidance is available on GOV.UK:

- [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education)
- [Managing outbreaks and incidents - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-outbreaks-and-incidents).

The NHS also has the following advice for parents on measles:

- [Measles - NHS \(\[www.nhs.uk\]\(http://www.nhs.uk\)\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles)

The NHS announced on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 a national [MMR catch up programme](#).

The DfE has published an [Education Hub blog](#) with guidance on measles and the MMR vaccine for parents, nurseries and schools which includes this and other information including brief guidance on 'What advice is there for staff who might be more vulnerable, for example, if they're pregnant or unvaccinated?':

### What should education settings do if they have a suspected or confirmed measles case?

Education settings should follow the [UKHSA guidance](#) on managing measles. This advises them to:

- exclude the infected individual from the settings until 4 days after the onset of the rash (where the date of the rash onset is day 0),
- encourage all children and young people over the age of one year old to have the combined MMR vaccination,

- [contact](#) their Health Protection Team.

**Further information and support is available from Andrea Eadsforth, Healthy Schools Advisor, telephone 01706 925217 or email [andrea.eadsforth@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.eadsforth@rochdale.gov.uk).**

Other support is available from:

- School Nursing Team, telephone 07564047341 or email [abbie.sunderland@nca.nhs.uk](mailto:abbie.sunderland@nca.nhs.uk)
- Immunisation Team, telephone 07512727651

Yours sincerely,



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