

15th February 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported an increase in measles across the country and is encouraging people to check that they and their children have had two doses of the MMR vaccine. The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella.

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. It can be a very unpleasant illness and, in some children, it can be serious and lead to hospitalisation and complications such as pneumonia, meningitis, blindness or seizures (fits). In rare cases it can cause death.

Children aged between 12 months and 11 years old who have not received 2 doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) are being offered vaccination by their GP as part of a national catch-up programme. Wirral's School Aged Immunisation Service will continue to support any missed vaccinations for children in Year 7 and above. **Please check your child's Red Book to see if they have received MMR vaccinations as scheduled or check with your GP surgery if you're unsure.**

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

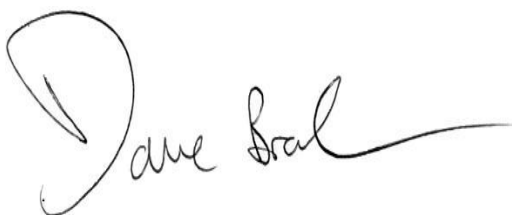
Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- 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 and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.

For more information about measles, see the [nhs.uk website](https://www.nhs.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Dave Bradburn
Director of Public Health
Wirral