

Measles update to schools and early years settings

City & Hackney Public Health

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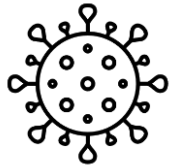


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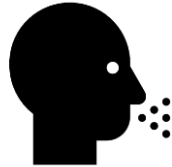
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Measles is a highly contagious, airborne disease caused by a virus that can lead to severe complications

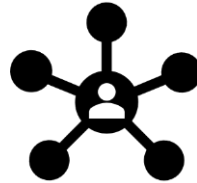
WHAT IS MEASLES?



A virus



Spread through coughing, sneezing, close contact and contact with secretions



Highly contagious
Can be transmitted within 15 mins of contact



High fever
Runny Nose
Cough
Red/watery eyes
Rash (later)

Measles cases are increasing across London; City and Hackney populations are at particular risk of outbreaks

WHY ARE WE FOCUSING ON MEASLES NOW?

Cases are rising in London

Rise in UK measles cases causing concern

© 4 hours ago

Coronavirus pandemic



By James Gallagher
Health and science correspondent

A "very concerning" rise in the number of people catching measles in the UK has been reported by health officials.

Measles can make some people very unwell

Complications from measles include:

- Ear infection
- Pneumonia
- Severe diarrhoea and related dehydration

Less common complications:

- Convulsions and swelling of the brain

Rarely measles can be fatal

We have the lowest vaccination rates in the country

Hackney's MMR coverage is: 69% (dose 1) and 60% (dose 2)

City's vaccination coverage* is: 86% (dose 1) and 82% (dose 2)

To achieve adequate levels of protection, 95% if people need to be vaccinated.

*Note: Coverage data for City of London population is unavailable and so the uptake data from the Neaman GP Practice within the City of London has been used as a proxy.



Any unvaccinated individual can become unwell with measles but some population groups are particularly at risk of severe illness

WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

Those most vulnerable to measles infection:



Infants (under the age of 1 year)



Pregnant women



Those with immunosuppression (these individuals continue to be vulnerable after vaccination)

Operational note

Those who are unvaccinated and exposed to measles may be required to miss up to 3 weeks of school/work.

Vaccination against measles is highly effective - two doses gives lifelong protection

HOW TO PREVENT AND TREAT MEASLES?



PREVENTION

Vaccination is highly effective for preventing measles

- 2 doses give lifelong protection
 - Dose 1 - 1 year,
 - Dose 2 - 3 years, 4 months
- Unvaccinated adults and older children can still get their vaccines (although not while pregnant)



CONTROL / POST EXPOSURE

Those that have been exposed to measles can reduce their risk of infection through:

- Vaccination (within 72 hours of exposure)
- Post exposure prophylaxis (for vulnerable contacts only, within 6 days of exposure)

Undervaccinated individuals that have been exposed may have to isolate for up to 3 weeks!



TREATMENT

Treatment options once infected are limited.

For most cases, treatment is focused on symptoms.



CITY OF LONDON

Cases of measles in schools / early years settings should be reported to and managed in partnership with the UKHSA HPT

ACTION IF YOU HAVE MEASLES IN YOUR SETTING

Contact the UKHSA North East and North Central London Health Protection Team if you have a case / cases of measles in your setting on: 020 3837 7084 (option 0, then option 2) or necl.team@ukhsa.gov.uk

- Isolate anyone who is unwell immediately. Infected individuals should be excluded 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 to have the combined MMR vaccination as per the national immunisation schedule
- Any unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff / pupils should be encouraged to seek advice from their general practitioner or practice nurse. **Note they may be required to isolate for up to 21 days.**
- Advise vulnerable individuals that have come into contact with a measles case - those with a weak immune system, pregnant staff (that are unsure of their immunity i.e. they have not had 2 measles vaccines or previously had measles) and children under 12 months - to seek prompt medical advice.
- Further guidance is available here: [Managing specific infectious diseases: Measles](#)



NHS London has launched a catch up campaign for polio and MMR vaccinations for children aged 1 to 11

PHASE 2 POLIO + MMR CATCH UP CAMPAIGN

Phase 2 of the polio + MMR catch-up campaign launched on 16 May 2023 and is aimed at under-vaccinated children in London aged 1 to 11 years.

- Undervaccinated children aged 1 to 4 years will be vaccinated through primary care
- Undervaccination children aged 5 to 11 years will be vaccinated through primary schools - led by Vaccination UK (school-age immunisation service in City and Hackney)

A letter was sent from Vaccination UK to all primary school Headteachers on 27 April 2023 asking for support with the following:

- Liaise with Vaccination UK to engage parents and facilitate on-site vaccination at your school where needed
- Inform parents about the vaccination consent process and support them in completing any forms
- Encourage parents to visit nhs.uk/polio for more information about polio vaccination.
- Encourage parents to check their child's health record (red book) to see if they are up to date on all their routine immunisations.
- Raise awareness of polio, MMR and other routine vaccinations with parents in your school community. Information is available online if you search 'NHS child vaccines' or visit nhs.uk/child-vaccines

Useful resources to help promote awareness of measles and the importance of vaccination amongst both staff and families

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nhs.uk/about/nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020-2017-2020)
- [Measles outbreak resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nhs.uk/about/nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020-2017-2020)
- [Managing specific infectious diseases: Measles](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nhs.uk/about/nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020-2017-2020)
- [Think measles: poster about measles in young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nhs.uk/about/nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020/healthcare-professionals-education-and-training-2017-2020-2017-2020)
(resource to promote awareness that measles can occur in unvaccinated older children)

