



Date: 1st February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been informed today by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) that there has been a confirmed case of measles in the school community. We are working closely with the West Midlands Health Protection Team at UKHSA, who have provided the following information.

Your child may have been in contact with a confirmed case of measles at nursery. Measles is highly infectious, meaning it can spread easily from person to person. Most people get better within a couple of weeks however, measles can cause serious complications and in rare cases it can be fatal.

The potential period of exposure was 8th - 12th January 2024 but confirmation of the case has, unfortunately, only now been made available. The incubation period for Measles is between 10-21 days. Today (Thursday 1st February 2024) is, therefore, day 20.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine is the only way to give people maximum protection from catching measles. These are typically given to children between 6-12 months and again at 3 years and 4 months. The first dose provides over 95% protection.

If your child has not had at least 1 dose of the MMR vaccine then they should be treated as not having protection against measles, mumps and rubella.

If your child is unvaccinated and was in nursery on Friday 12th January 2024, your child should NOT ATTEND NURSERY TOMORROW (Friday 2nd February 2024 - the final day of the 21 day maximum incubation period). All children are able to be in nursery from Monday 5th February 2024.

If you do not know if your child has had at least 1 dose of MMR, please check in your child's red book or contact your GP practice to confirm.

When your child next attends nursery, please bring your child's 'red book' in with you or other evidence to demonstrate that your child has had at least one dose of MMR. This will support us moving forward to understand who may need to isolate in the event of further cases. Thank you

About measles

The **first signs of measles** are:

- high temperature
- runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)

Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women, and immunocompromised persons (people with weak immunity).

FURTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The MMR vaccine

If your child has not received **2 doses of MMR vaccination** as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact your GP to check.

The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles. It is effective, safe and free of charge. The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella. The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry. However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age.

If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated. Two doses of MMR are required which provides excellent protection against measles, mumps and rubella.

What to do if you think your child has measles

If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. **You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting** and tell the reception staff that you think that

your child may have measles. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.

People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others **for 4 days after the start of the rash**. Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school or group activities and gatherings during that time

Further information on the MMR vaccine can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us – (0121) 675 0362

Yours faithfully,

David Aldworth

Executive Head Teacher