

Monday 28th January 2019

To All Salford Primary Schools and Salford High Schools

Dear Head Teacher or Manager

Re Measles Cases Salford

We would like to inform you and raise awareness that there has been confirmed cases of measles in Salford. Salford City Council are working closely with The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, Public Health England and GPs to respond to the situation.

Measles is caused by the measles virus and is highly infectious. It begins like a cold with a runny nose, as well as a cough, fever, conjunctivitis (sore, red eyes). After about 2-4 days a rash begins over the face / head before spreading across the rest of the body. Measles is spread to others in the droplets of coughs or sneezes and is easily passed around families and communities if children and adults are unvaccinated. It can affect people of all ages but babies under one, pregnant women, and people with immunosuppression are at greatest risk of serious complications, including pneumonia, ear infections, diarrhoea and encephalitis (swelling of the brain).

We are taking this opportunity to highlight the seriousness of the illness and the importance of MMR vaccination to protect individuals and communities. It is recommended that all adults and children are vaccinated against measles (with the MMR vaccine) just after their first birthday and again at the age of three years and four months. However, it is never too late to be vaccinated – you can be vaccinated at any age. It is of particular importance for people to be fully immunised before travel.

Could you please highlight to your staff and parents / students, that there has been cases of measles in Salford, and the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and ensuring that adults and children are fully vaccinated. **I have enclosed a leaflet and would be grateful if you could send it home to all parents.**

More information about this can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles>

For anyone who is unsure whether they are fully vaccinated with MMR, please ask them to contact their GP who will be able to advise them and arrange for vaccination if needed.

If you have any further queries regarding this information please contact the myself or our Health Protection Lead, Beverley Wasp on Tel 793 3599

Kind regards



Dr Gunjit Bandesha (GMC 4043971)
Joint Interim Director of Public Health

Measles Key Messages

- The only way to prevent measles outbreaks is to make sure there is good uptake of the MMR vaccine across all ages.
- Measles is often associated with being a disease of the past and as a result people may be unaware that it is dangerous and can lead to complications and even death in severe cases. Parents should ensure their children are fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella with two doses of the MMR vaccine.
- Parents of unvaccinated children, as well as older teenagers and young adults who may have missed MMR vaccination, should be aware it is never too late to get vaccinated against measles and they should make an appointment with their GP to get vaccinated as soon as possible.
- If you are unsure whether you or your child has had two doses of the vaccine, speak to your GP who will have a record.
- The illness: measles is an unpleasant illness which starts with a few days of cold-like symptoms and is then followed by a rash accompanied by high fever, red eyes and a cough. It can be particularly severe in babies under the age of one year, teenagers and older people, especially those who have a weakened immune system. In these groups, measles can cause complications including pneumonia, ear infections, diarrhoea and encephalitis (swelling of the brain).

Around one in every 10 children who get measles is admitted to hospital. In rare cases, people can die from measles. Measles in pregnant women can also be very serious and threaten the pregnancy