



**Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire
and Berkshire West**
Integrated Care Board

Sandford Gate, Second Floor
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Dear parents and guardians,

We are writing to alert you to a worrying increase in cases of measles in the UK, with large outbreaks detected in the West Midlands and London. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that commonly causes fever and a rash.

In a small number of cases, measles infection can cause serious medical problems including pneumonia, meningitis, and seizures (fits). These complications are more common in young babies, pregnant women, and people with a weakened immune system.

Because measles is so contagious, it is likely we will see cases in Oxfordshire. Fortunately, we have a safe and effective vaccine which is included in the routine course of childhood vaccinations which are offered before children start school. Getting both doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine provides 99% protection against measles, so most children in Oxfordshire are very unlikely to catch or spread measles.

If for any reason your child or grandchild missed out on either dose of the MMR vaccine, it is not too late for them to have it. Catch-up vaccination is available at your GP practice. This is especially important for children over one year old who haven't yet had their first dose of MMR. The two doses are usually given:

1. At around one year, and
2. At around three to three-and-a-half years

Getting your child/grandchild vaccinated is the best way to protect them and others from the risks of measles infection, so please contact your GP to arrange for catch-up vaccination if they have not previously had the MMR vaccine. Unvaccinated children who are identified as close contacts of confirmed measles cases may have stay at home for up to three weeks to avoid the possibility of them passing the infection on to other members of the school community.

If you are worried that your child might have measles you can find useful information on the Department of Education website: ['What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school'](#).

Yours sincerely

Rachael Corser
Chief Nursing Officer

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Corporate Director Public Health & Community Safety
Oxfordshire County Council