



Event Update of National Measles Guidance
Cascade of communication to NHS and health professional organisations on how to prepare for measles resurgence in England

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Summary: This is an update of Briefing Note 2023/017 Measles epidemiology and actions to avert measles resurgence circulated on 02/05/2023

Background and Interpretation:

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) recently published a [measles risk assessment](#) which concluded that although the risk of a UK-wide measles epidemic is considered low, a measles outbreak of between 40,000 and 160,000 cases could occur in London, due to sub-optimal uptake of the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine in the capital. Evidence also shows that outside of London there is a high risk of cases linked to overseas travel leading to outbreaks in specific population groups. There has been a [steady rise in measles cases this year](#).

Increasing uptake in the MMR immunisation programme to meet the WHO target of 95% coverage with two doses of MMR vaccine by age 5 years is essential to maintain measles elimination status for the UK and prevent measles outbreaks from occurring. This is a NHS [Long-Term Plan](#) (LTP) commitment and high priority within NHS England.

The [National Measles Guidance](#) has been refreshed and some minor changes included such as:

1. bringing the previously separate measles post-exposure prophylaxis guidance into this one single document
2. clarifications in the text to support assigning case definitions and risk assessment
3. updated information on available immunoglobulin products and use
4. an appendix supporting risk assessment of case(s) of measles in prisons and other places of detention.

Communication and resources

Letters on '*Preparing for measles resurgence in England*' have been prepared for cascade to:

1. Health Professional Organisations
2. Primary Care
3. NHS Trusts

They include a summary of the current measles situation and highlight existing guidance and actions that the health system needs to take to ensure preparedness for measles outbreaks, particularly around: i) infection control, ii) occupational health and iii) making every contact count.

Some new measles resources have been developed including:

1. Measles poster for health professionals
2. Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Training Slide Set for Immunisers
3. Measles training slide sets for: i) maternity services, ii) primary care and iii) paediatrics and accident and emergency services



Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Regions

Health Protection Teams (HPTs) are asked to note and familiarise themselves with the updated UKHSA National Measles guidance. In addition, an HPT Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and escalation framework are being developed in collaboration with Vaccine Preventable Disease HPT leads and the Programmed Development Unit (PDU). These will be shared via PDU.

HPTs are also asked to help with:

- raising awareness about measles through appropriate fora such as Infection Prevention Control Committee Meetings, Local Authority Health Protection Boards
- ensuring local stakeholders including Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), Screening and Immunisation Teams (SITs) are aware of the letters, guidance and updated resources
- consider the need for local/regional multiagency exercising of measles response

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA sites and services

Consultants in Public Health Infection (CPHI) are asked to:

- note and familiarise themselves with the updated UKHSA National Measles guidance
- ensure NHS partners are aware of the letters, guidance and updated resources

Sites holding UKHSA stock of Human Normal Immunoglobulin (HNIG) as follows (noting other Trusts may have procured their own stock):

- Birmingham Heartlands
- Cambridge
- Manchester
- Colindale, London

Implications & Recommendations for NHS

GP Practices, walk-in clinics, Accident and Emergency Departments, Paediatric Departments, Maternity Services, Infection Prevention and Control leads and teams and Occupational Health Departments in particular are asked to:

- note and action the letters on '*Preparing for measles resurgence in England*' that are being disseminated
- use the available training resources to raise awareness of measles among staff

Implications and recommendations for Local Authorities

Directors of Public Health are asked to:

- note the letter on '*Preparing for measles resurgence in England*' and support health economy partners to take forward actions as per existing guidance
- work with prisons and other places of detention (PPD) including children and young people settings to raise awareness about measles and MMR vaccination
- work with their local education authority to raise awareness about measles and the importance of the MMR vaccine
- work with ICBs, HPTs and SITs and consider the need for a local measles multi-agency exercise

New/updated measles resources:

1. National measles guidance (includes post-exposure prophylaxis guidance):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-measles-guidelines>
2. Measles Poster for health professionals: [Measles: guidance, data and analysis - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (found under clinical management subheading)



UK Health Security Agency

3. MMR training slide set for immunisers:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/measles-guidance-data-and-analysis#vaccination> (found under slide set subheading)
4. Measles training slide sets for: i) maternity services, ii) primary care and iii) paediatrics and accident and emergency services
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/measles-guidance-data-and-analysis#vaccination> (found under slide set subheading)