



GPs & Practice Nurses South London/ GP out-of-hours services  
Walk-in centres & Acute Trust Emergency Departments

11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Colleague,

**Measles in Wandsworth**  
**Current outbreaks in 1 secondary and 2 primary schools in the borough**  
**MMR drop in clinic**  
**17th December 2019, 4 – 7pm**  
**Wandsworth Town Hall**

Unfortunately, we have measles circulating in LB Wandsworth. From 30th September 2019 to 9th December 2019 there have been 82 suspected cases, including 30 laboratory confirmed cases, in Wandsworth residents. Confirmed cases have been across ages from 0 to 29 years, with most in 10 - 14 and 15 -19 year age bands. These cases attend local schools and we have current outbreaks in one secondary and two primary schools.

Two of the affected schools have had an MMR drop in session and two further school sessions are planned next week. A community MMR drop in clinic will also be held in Wandsworth Town Hall on 17th December at 4-7pm.

We would be grateful if you would consider the following:

**1. Minimise spread to other patients**

- Please raise awareness of measles amongst your team
- Isolate any patients with rash-like illness on arrival at your surgery
- Place posters about measles around your surgery and signage near the entrance and in the waiting areas advising patients with a rash to report to reception on arrival
- Advise any patients with a rash to telephone ahead before attending general practice, Urgent Care Centres or the Emergency Department and to report to reception on arrival
- Advise exclusion from school or workplace for 4 full days post onset of rash.

## 2. Urgent notification

Please contact us in the Health Protection team (HPT) as soon as you become aware of a suspected case (i.e. on clinical suspicion, without waiting for test results). We can help with the risk assessment of vulnerable contacts (infants, pregnant women and immunocompromised patients). The urgency is because the window of opportunity for effective post exposure prophylaxis with HNIG or IVIG for some vulnerable patients is 72 hours post exposure.

## 3. Testing

The HPT will send an Oral Fluid Kit (OFK) to the home address for all notified cases of measles. The testing is for surveillance purposes and results will be sent to your practice within 2-3 weeks. Please encourage your patient to undertake this test as it helps us to understand how much notified measles is genuine measles and to assess the spread of measles strain types.

## 4. Staff safety

Protection of healthcare workers (including reception staff) is especially important because of their ability to transmit measles to vulnerable groups. Evidence of protection includes documentation of having received 2 doses of MMR or a positive antibody test for measles.

## 5. Reduce the number of susceptible people in your practice population

MMR remains the most effective way to protect against measles. Please ensure your eligible patients have completed the 2-dose course:

- MMR 1 is given at 12 months of age. MMR 2 is given from 18 months of age or at pre-school age, from 3 years, 4 months of age.
- Patients over 3 years, 4 months who do not have 2 recorded doses of MMR vaccine remain eligible to receive 2 doses.
- There is no upper age limit to offering MMR vaccine and practices should maximise opportunities to ensure patients are fully vaccinated.
- **Ordering and payment:**
  - **Central MMR vaccine stock can be used to catch-up anyone of any age and can be ordered via ImmForm**
  - **Catching up children aged 15 years or younger is covered under the global sum**
  - **An item of service fee can be claimed manually via the CQRS MMR programme (aged 16 and over) for each dose of MMR administered. This includes patients born before 1970 who have no history of measles or MMR vaccination**
  - **Payment enquiries may be directed to: [england.londonimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.londonimms@nhs.net)**

## 6. Resources:

There are a host of materials free to order suitable for Primary and Secondary care settings:

- Posters and leaflets for use by health professionals and community engagement groups (translated into English, Romanian, Arabic, Spanish and Czech)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak>
- MMR for all leaflets in English, Polish, Romanian and Somali available at  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet>
- Department of Health measles resources, free to order / download available at  
[www.orderline.dh.gov.uk](http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk)

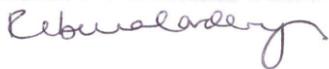
2900430	Measles- don't let you child catch it poster
2901026	Measles don't let your child catch it flyer
3207737	Think measles call ahead posters for GPs/ED/UCC, public areas
3205852	Think measles HCW isolate posters for GPs/ED/UCC staff areas
3205760	Think measles: patient leaflet for young people

You may wish to direct your patients to further information on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

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

Yours faithfully,



Dr Rebecca Cordery  
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