

HEALTH AND ADULT CARE
Health Protection Team
Public Health

Date: 28th March 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian

A few months ago a National Incident was declared because of a rise in the number of measles cases. Information was sent out to parents in Bury about what to look for, what to do if you think your child might have measles, and asking you to check that your child is vaccinated if they are old enough. We wanted to update you that measles cases have recently been diagnosed in the Bury area.

In light of a recent outbreak in a nursery in Stockport and some of the lessons learned there we wanted to make you aware that if your child is a contact of a confirmed case you may be asked to keep them away from their childcare setting for up to 21 days if they have not been fully vaccinated.

The schedule for measles vaccination (part of the MMR vaccination) is usually 2 doses, 1 dose at 1 year months and a 2nd at around 3 years 4 months. This means that younger children attending early years settings may not yet have had the vaccine, or only 1 dose. This means that it is more likely that younger children at one of these settings will have to be kept off if they are a contact of someone with measles. In the event of a case being confirmed at their childcare setting, UKHSA will assess the situation, identify contacts of the case, and advise who needs to be stay off.

We appreciate that this is likely to present a challenge but wanted to make you aware of this in advance to help with planning in case the need arises.

If you have any concerns that your child might have measles please get them checked by a health professional but ensure that you notify them in advance that you will be taking your child to be seen and that you think they may have measles.

We also urge parents whose children missed out, or anyone old enough who has not yet had two MMR vaccines, to come forward and get vaccinated. It's never too late to catch up. Speak to your GP practice if you need to check if you or your child are fully vaccinated, or to arrange to have it done.

Thank you for your support.

Health Protection Team,
Public Health