



Protecting and improving the nation's health

Parents/guardians of children attending St Barnabas Primary School, Bristol

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7 June 2018

Dear Parents,

Measles

Public Health England has been of a suspected case of measles in connection with St Barnabas Primary School. It is possible that pupils and staff at the school may have come into contact with this case and so may have been exposed to infection. Although the risk of infection is considered to be low in this case, we are writing to provide you with information and advice on how to reduce the risk of further transmission.

What is measles?

Measles is a viral disease which spreads very easily. People with measles can get a cough, runny nose, rash and fever. Measles can be serious and lead to complications, particularly for people whose immune system is not working normally or for those with other medical conditions. The best way to prevent measles is through vaccination.

What is the risk of catching measles?

Most older children and adults are immune to measles – either because they had measles as a child or because they have been vaccinated – and so are less likely to catch measles. However, anyone who is not immune can catch the infection if they are exposed to someone with measles, even for a short amount of time.

Who needs medical advice?

Some groups of people may be at a higher risk if exposed to measles.

- **People with a weakened immunity:** You should contact your doctor straight away if your child has weakened immunity (due to illness or medication). The doctor will then assess whether you/your child is immune (i.e. have antibodies) against measles. If the exposure was within the past few days, your doctor may be able to organise treatment to prevent your child becoming seriously ill.

- **Pregnant women:** If you are pregnant, have attended the school regularly during the last week and you are not sure of your immunity it may also be worth seeking your doctor's advice.
- **Children under one year:** If you attended St Barnabus regularly during the last week with an infant aged under one year, please also contact your doctor for advice.

If you/your child are in one of the groups listed above, the risk of exposure remains low.

If you/your child are well and not in the groups listed above you do not need to take urgent action to reduce the risk of infection at this time.

However, if you or your any members of your family are nor fully immunised, or if you are not sure if you are protected, please contact your doctor to check and arrange catch-up vaccinations. Remember that it is never too late to have MMR and it is freely available to everyone who needs it on the NHS.

If you would like more information on measles visit:

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

You can find more information about the MMR vaccine here:

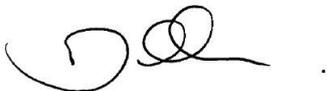
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

What if you or your child becomes unwell?

If your child becomes unwell and think it could be measles (within three weeks of of the date at the top of this letter) you should see a doctor. You should ring the doctor or clinic beforehand so they can make sure you do not pass the disease to others in the waiting room.

Take this information sheet with you and tell your doctor that you have been identified as having been in contact with someone with infectious measles. Your doctor should seek advice from the local Health Protection Team.

Yours sincerely,



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