

For distribution across Wirral

6 July 2018

To:

- All Wirral GP practices
- GP out-of-hours service
- Walk-in centres
- Community Infection Prevention Control Team
- Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Infection Prevention Control Team

Dear Colleagues

Measles cases in Wirral and risk of imported measles

We would like to inform you that there has been a recent increase in cases of measles in Wirral. There are five confirmed and six probable cases, with the first date of onset of the 18th June 2018. All cases to date have been in children and young adults who have not been vaccinated.

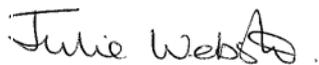
There are currently several measles outbreaks across England that are associated to cases in Europe with resultant spread in the local population. There is a continued risk of imported cases, therefore, we are highlighting the need for vaccination, with the aim to achieve 95% uptake of two doses of MMR to prevent spread.

Implications for practice:

- Patients with suspected measles (high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; cough; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash and no MMR vaccination) should be isolated away from communal waiting areas to protect other patients.
- All cases of suspected measles should be notified, including out-of-hours, to the Public Health England North West, Cheshire and Merseyside team on **Tel: 0344 225 0562 (option 1)**
- All suspected cases should be excluded from school, nursery or work for 5 days after the onset of rash.
- Posters are available for your use to promote MMR vaccination and to raise awareness of measles via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak>

- In line with national guidance, letters have been sent to people who attended hospital settings at the same time as some of the cases to advise people with weakened immunity, pregnant women and children under one year, to check with their doctor if they are unsure if they are protected from measles, and what to do if they become unwell.
- We would be grateful if you could maximise all opportunities to ensure children and young adults are fully immunised with MMR, please ensure you have adequate stock of MMR vaccines to offer catch-up
- Please make sure all healthcare staff and receptionists are fully protected against measles and vaccinate if there is uncertainty

Yours sincerely



Acting Director for Health and Wellbeing
Wirral Council



Dr Janey Kenyon
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Public Health England