

February 2012

Dear Parent

Measles

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There have been a small number of measles cases in Merseyside in recent weeks. Please ensure your child is up to date with their vaccinations to protect them.

MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella. The first MMR is given to children at around 13 months old. The second MMR can be given once the child is 3 years and 4 months old. It is best given before the child starts school but can be given at any age. Both doses of MMR vaccine are needed to protect against measles. If you are not sure whether your child has been vaccinated, you can check with your GP practice.

The first signs of measles are:

- a cold (runny nose, watery eyes, swollen eyelids and sneezing)
- red eyes and sensitivity to light
- fever
- greyish white spots in the mouth and throat

After a few days a red-brown spotty rash will appear. It usually starts behind the ears, then spreads around the head and neck before spreading to the legs and the rest of the body.

If you would like more information about measles and MMR, see: <http://www.nhs.uk/>

You should ring your GP if your child develops symptoms of measles.

It is important that you ring your GP rather than turn up at the surgery or walk-in centre or A&E if you suspect measles. This is because measles is very infectious and your doctor may want to make special arrangements for your child to be seen. Your child should stay off school or nursery for at least 4 days after symptoms first develop.

Yours sincerely

Dr Janet Atherton

Director of Public Health

Chair: Paul Acres

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