



# Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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Dear Parent / Guardian,

## **Re: Probable case of measles**

Public Health England (PHE) has been notified of a probable case of measles in a student who attends the Northampton School for Boys NN1 5RT.

PHE has carried out a risk assessment. Following this risk assessment, we have identified that your child may have been exposed to measles during these periods of time.

### **What is measles?**

Measles is a highly infectious but preventable viral illness that can sometimes lead to serious complications. The measles virus is spread by breathing in droplets containing the virus or by touching contaminated surfaces and then placing your hands near your nose or mouth.

Please be aware of the symptoms which can include:

- cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, sneezing and a cough
- sore, red eyes that may be sensitive to light
- a high temperature (fever), which may reach around 40C (104F)
- small greyish-white spots on the inside of the cheeks
- a red-brown blotchy rash that usually starts on the head or upper neck, before spreading outwards to the rest of the body

**If your child should develop such symptoms, please contact your GP or seek medical assistance** and let them know that your child has been exposed to a confirmed case of measles. You could take this letter with you. It's best to phone before your visit as your GP surgery may need to make arrangements to reduce the risk of spreading the infection to others.

### **Who needs medical advice?**

- **People with a weakened immunity who attend school:** You should contact your doctor straight away if you or your child has weakened immunity (due to illness or medication). The doctor will then assess whether you or your child has immunity (i.e.

have antibodies) against measles and whether treatment is required to prevent illness.

- **Pregnant women:** It may be worthwhile seeking your doctor's advice.
- **Children under one year:** Please also contact your doctor for advice.

### **Measles prevention**

Measles can be prevented by having two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

### **We are therefore advising that if your child:**

- i. has not yet had the MMR vaccination or has had the single measles vaccine, that you contact your GP to give your child two doses of MMR a month apart at the earliest convenient date;
- ii. has only had one dose of the MMR vaccine, they should have the second dose now, provided the first dose was given at least one month ago. This is to provide full protection against measles;
- iii. has had two documented doses of MMR, no further doses are required.

Should you have any queries please contact the Health Protection duty team at the PHE East Midlands Centre on the number above.

Further information on measles is available at: <http://www.nhs.uk/measles>

Yours faithfully,

Susan Waldman  
Health Protection Practitioner