



22 January 2017

To all head teachers in Solihull

Re: URGENT MESSAGE ABOUT MEASLES AND MMR VACCINATION UPTAKE

I am writing to inform you that there is currently a measles outbreak in Solihull affecting mainly young unimmunised children. Measles is highly infectious and I would be grateful if you could share this message with parents/guardians to encourage them to immunise their children.

If any child has suspected measles infection please make sure that they are excluded from school for 5 days after the onset of rash. Staff members can get MMR vaccine from their GP if they require it. MMR vaccine can be given to adults of any age.

Message for parents and guardians:

- There is a measles outbreak in Solihull affecting young unimmunised children.
- Measles is highly infectious, it can cause serious illness and can sometimes be fatal.
- The symptoms are:
 - high fever
 - cough and/or runny nose
 - red watery eyes
 - red brown blotchy rash, which usually appears after a few days – usually starting on the face and upper neck before spreading across the body
- Vaccination with 2 doses of MMR injections are the only way to protect children and young people.

- The first MMR vaccine is given to toddlers at the age of 13 months and the second at around 3 years and 4 months, before a child goes to school.
- It can also be given to older children, teenagers and young adults if they missed their injections when they were younger.
- If you suspect that your child needs the MMR vaccination, please contact your GP practice immediately.
- If you suspect that your child has measles, do not send them to school.
- If measles is not treated it can spread to older children, teenagers and adults who missed their MMR vaccinations.

Message for staff:

- The MMR vaccine can also be given to adults of any age who have missed their MMR vaccination.
- Staff members can get MMR vaccine – they should contact their GP surgery.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bharat Sibal', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Bharat Sibal

Lead Consultant Communicable Disease Control
Public Health England (PHE) West Midlands