

Since November, measles outbreaks have been declared in Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester and Surrey that are linked to large outbreaks in Europe, with Romania, Italy and Germany being the worst affected countries. All of the cases have been reported in children and adults who have not received two doses of the MMR vaccine.

This is a good opportunity to remind parents of the importance of getting their child vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella.

Young children

Young children should be offered the vaccine as part of the UK national vaccination programme. They will be offered two doses of the vaccine, the first one just after the first birthday and the second dose before they start school – usually at around three years and four months of age.

Older children, teenagers and young adults

The advice from Public Health England is that where individuals have never previously had the MMR vaccine or have only had one dose of it, they should contact their GP surgery to arrange to catch up with your outstanding doses.

A leaflet with more information on the MMR vaccine is here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet>

If you need more information, or think you may have a child in your school who has measles, please ring PHE West Midlands East Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3560 option 2.

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