

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE

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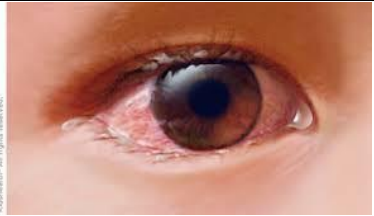

Dear Headteacher,


Measles Symptoms: what to do

There are increasing numbers of measles occurring in the West Midlands region including cases in Solihull. Measles is extremely infectious and spreads very rapidly in unvaccinated contacts of cases. It is therefore very important that rapid action is taken if measles is suspected, to avoid it spreading, particularly to anyone who is not vaccinated.

We recently sent you letters to cascade to parents about getting their children vaccinated if they have not already done so. This is the most important and effective way to protect people from this disease, which can be serious, particularly for young children and pregnant women.

If you have concerns that a child may have measles (see initial signs and symptoms below), please ask their parent or carer to PHONE their GP for advice. Local GPs have been alerted to respond rapidly to any suspected cases of measles. GPs will notify the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) who will then advise the school on any further action that may be necessary. You do NOT need to notify Solihull Council.

Symptom	Picture	Description	Timeline	Infectious period
High Temperature		which may reach around 40°C	10 days after infection	4 full days before and after the start of the rash
Runny or Blocked Nose & Sneezing, cough				
Red watery eyes (conjunctivitis)				
Oral (Koplik) spots		Tiny white spots (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth	2-3 days after symptoms begin	

Rash		It usually begins as flat red spots that appear on the face at the hairline and spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet.	3-5 days after symptoms begin
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If children or staff have **not** been vaccinated and have been in contact with someone who has measles, they may need to be excluded from school for up to 21 days to reduce the risk of onward transmission.

Please continue to encourage parents/ carers to get their children vaccinated, stay vigilant for emerging signs of measles and ask parents/ carers to make immediate **phone** contact with their GP if their child has symptoms of measles. If a measles case were to be confirmed in your school, UKHSA would work with SMBC's Public Health team, local NHS services and the school to agree next steps.

If you have a specific concern about a measles case, you can contact UKHSA on 0344 225 3560 Option 2.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Tennant
 Director of Public Health, Education and Inclusion, Solihull MBC