

Is your child protected against measles?

Dear parent / carer / guardian,

We are writing to you to ask for your support in checking your child's measles vaccination status. We are asking you to check the vaccine page in the red book or contact your GP practice to check your child has had two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccinations and if not, to make and appointment for the MMR.

The reason for this request is that nationally there have been an increase in cases in the last few months and we are starting to see an increase in cases in the northwest.

Measles is a highly contagious illness, easily passed on through coughs and sneezes and can cause serious complications in some circumstances, with those who have never received the MMR vaccine at greatest risk.

Being vaccinated is highly effective at preventing people getting measles. The MMR vaccine provides up to 99% effective life-long protection against measles. It is one of the safest and most successful vaccinations used in the world today.

According to the WHO, the MMR vaccine has saved an estimated 17.1 million lives since the year 2000, with over 500 million doses given across 100 countries in the last forty years.

As part of the UK routine vaccine schedule since 1988, all children should have received two doses of the MMR vaccine by the time they started school (or by 3 years and 4 months of age).

Please check if your child had two doses of the MMR vaccine to protect them, your family and community against measles.

If you are unsure, please check your child's red book or contact your GP, who can offer any missed vaccinations so you can catch-up. If your child wasn't vaccinated for MMR before, they can be vaccinated **for free** at any age with two doses, one month apart.

If you would like to learn more the MMR vaccine or how to spot signs and symptoms of measles, please refer to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>.



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