

Measles webinars for education settings March 2024. UKHSA London

Questions asked and answered in the webinar

1.	<p>Please share the link to national DfE webinar for education settings</p> <p>DfE webinar for educational settings</p>
2.	<p>Should people that are assumed to have natural immunity (e.g., born before 1970) still consider MMR or is their immunity likely to still be effective?</p> <p>We would encourage all staff members to ensure that they are up to date with all their vaccines, including MMR. Individuals born before 1970 are likely to have immunity to measles, mumps and rubella through natural infection. However, there is no upper age limit to receiving MMR and we would encourage individuals to discuss this with their GP. MMR vaccine can be given upon request and there is no harm in receiving the vaccine if you are already immune.</p>
3.	<p>So, a child could only be off for 8 days if 4 days before rash and 4 days after - do they have to be tested?</p> <p>The infectious period for measles is 4 days before until 4 days after the onset of rash, with the date of onset of rash day 0. Therefore, it is a 9-day period a person with measles should not attend school.</p> <p>Urgent testing may be organised by the HPT in situations where there are vulnerable contacts and confirmation of the diagnosis is required to determine further public health actions. Some hospitals also carry out measles testing, but it is not required for all cases.</p>
4.	<p>Born in 1967 and I had German measles - should I get MMR</p> <p>German measles is the common name give for Rubella which is a totally different disease to measles.</p> <p>We would encourage all staff members to ensure that they are up to date with all their vaccines, including MMR. Individuals born before 1970 are likely to have immunity to measles, mumps and rubella through natural infection. However, there is no upper age limit to receiving MMR and we would encourage individuals to discuss this with their GP. MMR vaccine can be given upon request and there is no harm in receiving the vaccine if you are already immune.</p>

5.	<p>If we have children here without any MMR vaccinations, how long in between having 2 vaccinations?</p> <p>Usually, it is 6 months in between the first and second dose but in it can be as short as 1 month to support children being fully vaccinated in the present situation of increase of cases.</p>
6.	<p>How long does it take for test results to come back? we have a suspected case and the parents waited 4 weeks for results. is this typical for a time frame?</p> <p>When suspected cases of measles are sent an oral fluid kit in the post, the purpose of this test is surveillance. That is to add to the overall picture of measles transmission. The results of the test do not impact the clinical treatment of individual or the recommended public health actions as we take action on clinical suspicion of a case. Therefore, results of the routine oral fluid kits sent in the post may take a few weeks. Results will be sent to the case's GP.</p> <p>If someone is admitted to hospital, tests may be taken there for diagnosis and results of these tests are likely to be available sooner.</p>
7.	<p>Is the vaccine free for adults?</p> <p>Yes, you can access it free from your GP practice</p>
8.	<p>Question about who does the risk assessment in settings – the setting or HPT</p> <p>When a case of measles is known to have attended an educational setting during their infectious period the HPT will conduct a risk assessment with the setting. The HPT will ask questions about the school set up (size, class numbers, mixing etc.), who the case may have had contact with and whether there are any vulnerable children or staff within the school. The HPT will then advise on any follow up actions which are required.</p>
9.	<p>Is there any way of knowing how many/percentage of children are not vaccinated within your school so that we are aware of the risk within our school?</p> <p>School Age Immunisations Service (SAIS) may be able to give you some information on the approximate percentage of children in your setting that do not have a vaccination record. They would not share any personal identifiable information</p>
10.	<p>Should we be directly asking all staff whether they have had their MMR and will there be older staff who might have had vaccination against measles prior to the MMR?</p> <p>Should schools be asking their staff if they have had Measles or had the vaccination? If they have not had the vaccination, should they advise them to get the vaccination?</p>

	<p>Please remind staff to check their MMR status with their GP and if they have not had it or do not know encourage them to get the vaccine via their GP. There is no risk or side effects for someone to have the MMR again if they have had it previously.</p> <p>Before MMR vaccine was introduced in 1988, other measles vaccines were available and so it is possible some staff may have had these</p>
11.	<p>Why are we allowed to share parent/child contact details with HPT without asking for their permission?</p> <p>This is included in the UKHSA privacy notice under GDPR and Data Protection legislation. See link below for more details. In brief you can share contact details with HPT to enable HPT to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.</p> <p>UKHSA privacy notice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
12.	<p>What level of protection would someone who had a single measles vaccine in 1976 against measles in 2024?</p> <p>It is not possible to answer directly what level of protection they would have so we would encourage them to have the MMR now to ensure they are protected with 2 doses of a measles containing vaccine.</p>
13.	<p>If a staff member has a child at home with a confirmed case of measles, and they do not have a vaccine, how long should they stay off school?</p> <p>The HPT would need to do a risk assessment and give advice on a case-by-case basis as the answer is dependent on several factors including if the staff member has been vaccinated etc.</p>
14.	<p>Is there a leaflet or poster to share on school newsletter?</p> <p>Leaflets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-protect-yourself-protect-others • www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-poster • With translations www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-schools
15.	<p>How would this affect early years settings in terms of isolation and exclusion periods? In that age group there will lots of illnesses that could potentially be measles.</p> <p>The Health Protection Agency takes into consideration a number of factors when determining if an individual has likely measles or unlikely measles.</p>

	<p>This includes the expert opinion of the doctor who notified the case. The HPT will risk assess and advise on a case-by-case basis with regards to who needs to exclude from a setting and for how long as this depends on the timing of their exposure and also their vaccination status.</p>
16.	<p>If there is an outbreak in another local setting, would we be made aware?</p> <p>We would only make a setting aware of cases or outbreaks of measles if they are directly affected.</p>
17.	<p>Our international students and parents have not supplied vaccination status despite several requests. What do you advise please?</p> <p>The HPT will advise on specific actions where it is not possible to determine immunisation status of close contacts of measles. This will be on a case-by-case basis.</p>
18.	<p>We are an International Boarding school and cannot isolate. Do you have any advice please?</p> <p>If there is a case of measles suspected in a boarding school please contact the relevant HPT who will conduct a risk assessment. The HPT will then give bespoke advice on further actions required to limit onward spread which will take into consideration the facilities within the school.</p>
19.	<p>Will the school age immunisation service also be able to offer staff a catch-up vaccination?</p> <p>No, the school age immunisation service can only vaccinate children. Staff should seek vaccination at their GP. There may also be community settings where vaccination is available and these would be advertised locally</p>
20.	<p>How (and where) would a member of staff who hasn't been vaccinated or is unsure of their vaccination status get vaccinated?</p> <p>Staff should seek vaccination at their GP. There may also be community settings where vaccination is available and these would be advertised locally</p>
21.	<p>What's considered a close contact?</p> <p>Measles is a highly infectious disease. For contact tracing purposes, we generally define a close contact as household contacts, face to face contact of any length, or more than 15 minutes in a small confined area</p>

	<p>e.g., room in a house or classroom. For certain immunosuppressed individuals, we may adopt a lower threshold for contact tracing purposes.</p>
22.	<p>How many cases in Islington and north London</p> <p>Cases are increasing and that is why we are concerned because the rates of vaccination in all London Boroughs are low. See this link to check the vaccination rates in your London Borough Childhood Vaccinations Rates in Your Area LG Inform (local.gov.uk)</p>
23.	<p>Question about staff in various age brackets as older staff won't know their vaccination records, what is the risk.</p> <p>The groups of individuals who are at greatest risk from complications of measles are immunosuppressed individuals, non-immune pregnant women, and infants aged less than 12 months of age.</p>
24.	<p>Have got something simple we can send out to parents encouraging vaccine and explaining symptoms?</p> <p>See link to various leaflets including in different languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-protect-yourself-protect-others • www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-poster • With translations www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-schools
25.	<p>It would be helpful to have a flow chart like with Covid, what to do and who to contact when (with contact details)</p> <p>We have produced an information pack for educational settings which contains lots of useful resources including template letters that can be sent to parents which will be shared with you in the event of a case in the setting</p>
26.	<p>My daughter was fully vaccinated as a child but when starting work with the NHS blood tests didn't show markers for MMR so she had to have them again, is this common?</p> <p>Two documented doses of MMR vaccine are sufficient to demonstrate immunity. Blood testing for antibodies to measles is sometimes required for certain professions e.g., healthcare workers, however antibody testing is not routinely recommended.</p>

27.	<p>I think I heard something saying some school staff in the midlands were being vaccinated with boosters if their vaccination was a long time ago - is that true? How long does double dose protection last?</p> <p>Two doses of MMR vaccine will give lifelong protection, and no further doses or boosters are required, no matter how long-ago MMR vaccines were given.</p> <p>If an individual's vaccination status is not known or is uncertain, then there is no harm from having an additional MMR vaccine, even if you have had it in the past.</p>