



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

Notice from the School Immunisation Team at Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Dear School,

There is an increase in the reported cases of measles. The combined MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) vaccine is usually offered to children at the age of 1 year and then again at 3 years and 4 months, so that by the time they start school they are fully protected against the diseases. Last year the UK lost its status as measles free and since then locally and nationally there have been increasing cases of measles amongst children and young people.

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease which can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). In addition, measles infection damages and suppresses the whole immune system. This means that people who have had measles are more likely to catch other infectious diseases. This effect can last for as much as three years after they recover from measles. Numbers of measles cases are currently high in several European countries. There were over 82,500 measles cases in Europe in 2018. This is more than three times as many as in 2017, and 15 times as many as in 2016. In 2016 and 2017 there were 49 deaths from measles in Europe, and 2018 saw another 72 deaths. Some countries have reported that over 60% of measles cases have been hospitalised. There have been particularly serious outbreaks in Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Italy, and France, with over 40% of cases in Europe occurring in adults over the age of 20.

With the above in mind, please could you display the attached MMR poster in your school (or on your social media/newsletters) reminding parent/carers that we hold community immunisation catch up clinics across all 6 localities within Berkshire. If children/young people have not received 2 combined MMR doses or, have received the single measles, mumps and rubella vaccines, they will not be protected. Two doses of the combined MMR vaccine are required for full protection.

Appointments will be by booked appointment only and parents/carers can contact the team on schoolimmunisationteam@berkshire.nhs.uk or, they

can phone the phone numbers below depending on which area their child attends school:

East team (covers Slough, Ascot, Windsor, Maidenhead or Bracknell) 01753 636759

West team (covers Reading, Wokingham or West Berkshire) 0118 9207575

Please see some resources below which may be useful for you to gain a better understanding:

<https://vimeo.com/323488762>

<http://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/vk/measles>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Thank you for your support in helping us in achieving a better MMR uptake and ensuring herd immunity within your local community.

Kind regards
Emma Caddy
Health Care Support Worker
School Immunisation Team

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Whitley Health & Social Services Team
268 Northumberland Avenue
Whitley
Reading
RG2 7PJ

Office:- 01189 207575

If you should have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to also email the School [Health Centre](#), or call them on 0118 9879 566.