



*Stimpson Avenue Academy
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*Head of School: Mrs L Clapton
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5th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Confirmed case of measles at Stimpson Avenue Academy, NN1 4LR

We have been informed by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) that there has been a suspected/confirmed case of measles at Stimpson Avenue Academy. We are working closely with the East Midlands Health Protection Team at UKHSA, who have provided the following information.

Measles can be a serious disease. It can spread very quickly in places such as nurseries, schools or healthcare settings, if people have not had two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

People in certain risk groups, including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immunity, are at increased risk of serious illness if they catch measles. Anyone of any age, who has missed their MMR vaccine can get measles.

Important: how to protect you and your family

Now is the time to check if you and your family have had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine.

- Vaccination with TWO doses of MMR is the only way to give people maximum protection against measles
- If you are not sure if you/your child/any family member needs an MMR vaccine, check their Red Book or contact your GP practice to check and /or book a vaccination. The MMR vaccine is safe, effective and free.
- If you/your family have not had 2 doses you should contact your GP to arrange vaccination as soon as possible
- For people who do not touch any pork products, there is a version of the MMR vaccine, Priorix, which has no pork ingredients. You can request Priorix from your GP.

The MMR vaccine is given as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme as follows:

- 1st dose should be given just after the child's first birthday
- 2nd dose at 3 years 4 months and certainly before children start school full time
- However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age



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What to do if you think you or your child has measles

- Contact NHS 111 or phone your GP surgery. If you do need to visit a GP or hospital, you must call ahead to let them know it could be measles. The staff will make special arrangements to see you and/or your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to other people.
- If you or your child has measles, you should stay off nursery/ school/ university/ work/ other group activities until at least 4 days after the rash appears, because you will still be infectious, which means you can spread measles to others.
- In Northampton, we have reduced the risk of measles spreading by asking children and adults to not attend nurseries and schools for 21 days, if they have been in contact with someone with measles and have not had at least one dose of MMR – because it can take up to 21 days for measles to develop after contact with an infected person.

About measles

Measles is highly infectious and can spread easily from person to person. While most people get better within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases can be fatal. Vaccination with two doses of MMR protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

The first signs of measles are:

- high temperature
- runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)

Further information on the MMR vaccine can be found on the NHS website:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Yours faithfully,



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