



May 2017

Dear Parent

Re: Measles

Two cases of measles have recently been confirmed in pupils attending Kildwick C of E Primary School. Measles can be a very serious illness and is extremely infectious from five days before the onset of the rash until about five days afterwards. If someone who has not been fully protected against measles comes into contact with someone who is infectious, measles can be passed on easily. As there have been cases in school, we are writing to make you aware of the symptoms of measles and ask you to be vigilant.

Typical symptoms include fever, tiredness, sore red eyes, cough and a widespread red blotchy rash.

If you think that your child may have measles, contact your GP. Tell the receptionist that you think your child might have measles and that they have been in contact with a suspected case of measles. The surgery can then make arrangements for them to be seen separately to reduce the risk of infecting other people at the surgery (e.g. you might be asked to come at the end of surgery when there are fewer people about or be seen in a separate room to other people). Please show your doctor this letter.

Protection against measles

- The best way of making sure your child is protected against measles is to make sure they have **two** doses of the MMR vaccine. People who have had two doses of the MMR vaccine are very unlikely to get measles (less than 1% of people are vulnerable to measles after two doses of a licensed Measles-containing vaccine such as MMR).
- People who have had measles in the past are fully protected, and will not get it again. However, be aware that, unfortunately, there are many other illnesses that resemble measles, and many people who were told they've had measles – especially since the introduction of MMR vaccination in 1988 – actually had something else.
- People born before 1970 are likely to have natural protection from having been exposed to measles as a child.

How can you tell if an MMR vaccine is required?

- If you are not sure whether your child has had two doses of MMR, then contact your GP.
- It is quite safe to have extra doses of MMR, so if there is any doubt, it is better to have an extra dose than to risk not being fully protected.

Pregnancy

- MMR should not be given to pregnant women. Pregnant women who are in contact with cases of measles should seek advice from their GP.

Kind regards

Dr Simon Padfield

Consultant in Communicable Disease Control