

To: All parents in Kingston

24 May 2018

Dear Parents

Measles in South West London and Surrey

I am writing to notify you that a number of cases of measles have recently been confirmed in South West London and Surrey, and to advise you about how to protect your family.

Measles is an extremely infectious viral illness which can have serious complications. Even passing contact with someone who has measles is enough to infect people who are unprotected against the virus. About 1 in 15 people with measles will develop severe complications.

MMR vaccination

The safest way to protect against measles is with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. We strongly recommend that all children are up-to-date with their MMR vaccination. Children routinely receive their first dose at one year of age and a second dose prior to school entry.

If you have any children of school age who have not yet received two doses of the MMR, please go to your GP or practice nurse to ensure their vaccinations are brought up to date.

Recognising measles

Symptoms of measles include: high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; and a blotchy red-brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

If you think that your child may have measles, please contact your doctor by phone or email. Please keep them away from school or nursery and from people who may be vulnerable (this includes pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems, and infants under one year old). Children with measles remain infectious for four full days after the onset of the rash and should be kept away from school or nursery until after this time.

Further information about measles and MMR vaccination can be found in the attached leaflet or on the NHS Choices website at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Best wishes

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Director of Public Health