



## North Ridge Community School

*An academy within Nexus MAT*

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Headteacher: Mr. Sam Macdonald



Tuesday, 05 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has declared a national incident following Measles outbreaks in London and West Midlands. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. In response to this we would like to share with you the advice from UKHSA currently:

Measles is a highly infectious, serious illness that can be very unpleasant. Those most at risk are under 1's, the unvaccinated, immuno-compromised or pregnant woman. There is no specific treatment available, so it is important to get vaccinated to avoid serious illness.

If you and your child have been vaccinated, it's very unlikely you will catch Measles.

### Symptoms of Measles

Usually starts with cold-like symptoms

High fever

Sore red watery eyes

Cough and/or runny nose

Small red spots with bluish-white centres inside the mouth

A red/brown blotchy rash which appears several days later, rough to the touch.





You should keep your child away from school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appeared and until they are completely recovered. This guidance explains when you should and should not send your child to school.

### 'THINK' Measles

If you think your child has measles or has been in contact in the last 3 weeks with someone with a confirmed case of measles, then please stay at home and call your GP surgery.

DO NOT bring your child to school.

DO NOT visit the GP surgery/ out of hours, or Hospital.

CALL ahead to the GP surgery so measures can be put in place for your arrival.

Children in school who are suspected of having measles will be isolated and parents will be asked to collect promptly.

### Vaccination

If you are unsure about whether your child is due a vaccine or has missed a vaccination you can check your vaccination status by calling your GP surgery or checking your 'red book'. If your child has missed one of their MMR's call your GP surgery and book an appointment.

The MMR schedule is usually 1 vaccine at 12 months old and a 2nd vaccine at pre-school, around 3 years and 4 months. For adults it's never too late to get vaccinated. Adults require 2 vaccines at 4 weeks apart.

You can request a version of the MMR vaccine that does not contain pork products from your GP surgery, making it suitable for all faiths. Please note that the GP practice may need to order this product in specially, so it will be helpful to tell the GP surgery before the appointment.

Many Thanks

Sam MacDonald

Headteacher