



Public Health
England

NHS
England

Public Health England
Cumbria and Lancashire HPT
Floor C
Lancashire County Council
P O Box 100
County Hall
Preston
PR1 0LD

Screening and Immunisation Team
NHS England North (Lancashire and South Cumbria)
Preston Business Centre
Watling Street Road
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 8DY

Email: england.lancashiresit@nhs.net

18 December 2017

Dear Colleague

Re: Measles Outbreaks

We have become aware of a recent increase in measles in children and young people from the Romanian community in Liverpool and Leeds. This community has low uptake of measles vaccination and members are becoming infected when travelling back to Romania for visits, before returning to the UK. Please could you therefore take every opportunity to discuss measles infection, and encourage vaccination, with members of the Romanian community who are registered with your practice/team.

There are also currently several large measles outbreaks across Europe, with Romania, Italy, Germany and Greece being the worst affected countries, meaning a continuous risk of imported cases. This is particularly important for families travelling to these areas over the holiday period.

Implications for practice:

- I would be grateful if you could maximise all opportunities to ensure children and young adults are fully immunised with MMR. Ensure you have adequate stock of MMR vaccines to offer catch-up.
- Patients with possible measles (fever, conjunctivitis, cough, coryza and rash type illness) should be isolated away from communal waiting areas to protect other patients.
- Make sure all healthcare staff and receptionists are fully protected against measles with 2 vaccinations and vaccinate if there is uncertainty.
- All cases of suspected measles should be notified, including out of hours, to Cumbria and Lancashire Health Protection Team Public Health England North West, 0344 225 0562 (option 2).
- All suspected cases should be excluded from school, nursery or work for 5 days after the onset of rash
- Please display and use the leaflets and posters from the link below to promote MMR vaccination and to raise awareness of measles. A leaflet and poster in Romanian are also available for those with local Romanian communities.

Link to posters for displaying: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak>

Yours Sincerely,

Dianne Draper
Screening and Immunisation Lead

Yours Sincerely,

Dr John Astbury
Consultant in Health Protection