



14 December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Surrey Measles Outbreak Information

I have been informed that there is a measles outbreak in Surrey affecting unimmunised children and adults. Measles is highly infectious. It can cause serious illness and can sometimes be fatal. **Vaccination with 2 doses of MMR is the only way to protect children and young people.** There are also measles outbreaks occurring in Europe, particularly in Romania, Italy and Germany, and if you are planning to travel overseas please ensure that your child is up to date with their routine immunisations, including MMR.

The first MMR vaccine is given to toddlers at the age of 13 months and the second injection at around 3 years and 4 months before your child goes to school. MMR can be given to older children, teenagers and young adults if they missed their injections when they were younger. **Contact your GP practice if your child needs an MMR vaccine.** The vaccine is free. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact the GP to ask.

Measles is not just a little kids' problem. Teenagers, young adults and anyone who has missed their MMR vaccination can get measles. The first signs of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and red sore eyes. After a few days, a spotty rash will appear. It starts on the face and neck before spreading to the rest of the body.

If you think your child has measles, ring your GP practice for advice. Don't turn up to the surgery, walk in centre or to accident and emergency without calling ahead. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that if your child has measles – they won't pass it on to others. Keep people with symptoms of measles away from others to avoid spreading measles, and stay away from school, nursery or work for 5 days after the onset of rash.

If you would like more information, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Local hospital A&E departments get rather busy, particularly Paediatrics A&E. Ashford and St. Peter's have subscribed to an app which gives advice on common ailments and what to do if your child becomes unwell.

The app is called Handi (developed by Musgrove Park Hospital) and it can be downloaded for free from the App/Play stores. Once downloaded, you scroll down to the bottom to find Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals. I hope this information will help to keep your family that bit safer this winter.



Yours sincerely

Mrs C Dyer
Headteacher

