

Dear parent/guardian,

Measles is currently circulating in England, and we expect that we will soon start seeing measles outbreaks in Cornwall. Measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated.

Measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can kill.

Getting vaccinated

Your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination.

Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection.

If your child is due to have had 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible. MMR vaccination is free.

If you can't remember if your child has had any, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine, check his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your GP.

If you don't know how many doses your child has had, it's better to have 2 doses of MMR vaccine now rather than risk leaving them unprotected.

What to do if your child has symptoms

Symptoms of measles include fever, sore red eyes, and rash. Measles often starts as cold like symptoms. If your child has cold like symptoms but no fever they can still attend school. [School attendance](#) is vitally important to childrens' learning and health. If your child has been vaccinated, it's very unlikely that they have measles.

If your child has measles they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears, and avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. If you are worried about your child contact your GP or 111.

For further information see

- [MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- Measles is circulating leaflet [Measles leaflet English \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk)

Best wishes,

Cornwall Council Public Health Protection team

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