



School Aged Immunisation Team

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you as you may have seen on the news that there has been a recent rise in measles cases across the country.

Bristol City Council, Sirona's School Immunisation Team and other partners are working together to ensure we offer those currently unvaccinated the opportunity to have the vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Measles is a very infectious virus, which spreads quickly if people have not had the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, especially in nurseries and schools. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are needed for maximum protection.

Measles can be a very unpleasant illness. In some children and young people it can be very serious and lead to hospitalisation – and in rare cases tragically can cause death. People in certain at-risk groups including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immunity, are at increased risk of complications from measles.

Symptoms include a high fever, sore red watery eyes and a blotchy red-brown rash. Anyone with symptoms is advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.

Children and adults can catch up on any missed vaccinations by contacting their GP practice. We are also planning to hold vaccination clinics over the next couple of months to enable people to catch up on the MMR vaccine. Letters are in the process of being sent out with information about these extra clinics.

You can look in your child's personal health record, known as the red book, or contact your GP practice to check if your child has received the vaccine. Children should have the first dose at 1-year-old and the second dose at 3 years and 4 months. Two doses of the MMR can provide life-long immunity.

The leaflet <https://gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet> includes more information about measles, mumps and rubella and the MMR vaccination. You can also find out more information on our website at <https://sirona-cic.org.uk/advice-information/measles-and-the-mmr-vaccine/> or by scanning the QR code.

Our resources are available to view and listen to in different languages and formats.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Northcott', with a large loop at the end.

Julie Northcott, Deputy Director of Public Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Lewis', written in a cursive style.

**Mary Lewis
Chief Nursing Officer – Sirona care & health**