

Subject: Important Public Health Update – Measles Cases in London and Prevention Measures for schools

Dear Headteachers and School Leaders,

I am writing to update you on the current measles situation in London and to outline essential actions schools should take to help protect pupils, staff, and the wider community.

Recent data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirms a significant rise in measles cases across London. London accounts for 73% of all confirmed measles cases in England so far this year. Local reporting shows that more than 60 suspected cases have occurred across at least seven schools and one nursery in one of London Boroughs with 34 laboratory-confirmed cases between 1 January and 9 February 2026. One in five affected children required hospital care, and the majority of hospitalised cases involved children who were not fully immunised.

Measles is an extremely contagious airborne virus that can spread rapidly in educational settings. Symptoms typically include fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, and a distinctive rash that starts on the face before spreading to the rest of the body. Complications can be severe, including pneumonia, brain inflammation, and in rare cases long-term disability or death.

Key actions for schools

1. Promote vaccination

- Please encourage parents and carers to check that their children are up to date with their MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccinations.
- Vaccination remains the most effective protection, with two doses offering approximately 99% immunity.
- Temporary vaccination walk in clinics are being held in several locations across Hammersmith and Fulham to improve access for families:
 - Saturday 14th March 10.00-14.00 at Tudor Rose at 10:00 -14:00
 - Wednesday 18th March 10.00-14.00 at Tudor Rose
 - Tudor Rose Building, Fulham Court, London, SW6 5PG

2. Reinforce infection prevention

- Display public health information about symptoms and when to keep children at home.
- Encourage good respiratory hygiene and handwashing across your school community , please refer to the link below for detailed information for schools
- [Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres - GOV.UK](#)

3. Responding to suspected cases

- Pupils with suspected measles should be kept at home and advised to seek medical assessment.
- Unvaccinated children identified as close contacts of a confirmed case may need to be excluded from school for up to 21 days, in line with public health advice.
- Please notify UKSHA team immediately if you become aware of any suspected cases, the using the contact details;

- **Email: london.region@ukhsa.gov.uk**
- **Telephone: 0300 30 30 450**

4. Support vulnerable groups

- Reinforce precautions to protect children under one year old, pregnant women who are unvaccinated, and individuals who are immunocompromised, as these groups are at greater risk of complications.

Next steps

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updated guidance as needed. Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping to limit the spread of measles and safeguard the health of our school communities.

If you have any questions or require further support, please contact the Hammersmith & Fulham Health Protection Team:

Elizabeth Naylor - Head of Health Protection

Elizabeth.naylor@lbhf.gov.uk

Dean Linzey - Senior Lead Health Protection

Dean.linzey@lbhf.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Abu Affan', written in a cursive style.

Dr Mayada Abu Affan
Director of Public Health (interim)
Hammersmith and Fulham Council
Mayada.abuaffan@lbhf.gov.uk