

Red Bag Health Protection Update

Measles

You may have seen recent press reports regarding the national **increase in measles cases**.

Measles is one of the most infectious diseases known. It can lead to serious problems such as pneumonia, meningitis, and on rare occasions, long-term disability or death. Symptoms include a high fever, sore red watery eyes and a blotchy red-brown rash. You can catch measles if you spend 15 minutes with someone who has the disease. Having the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent it.

This short, 2 minutes, video gives a very clear overview of measles:

[A new video from Dr. Colin Campbell](#), Consultant Epidemiologist at UKHSA, who explains how infectious the measles virus is, who can have the MMR vaccine and why the World Health Organization (WHO) has set an MMR vaccination target of 95% of the population.

Whilst the vaccination rate in North Yorkshire is higher than other areas, we are seeing a decline in all immunisations, and we are currently below the 95% rate that is required for herd immunity.

A new information leaflet encouraging parents to check their child's MMR is up to date has been produced (attached), please distribute to as many parents as possible.

Please encourage your staff to check that all their vaccinations are up to date. Anyone who is unsure should contact their GP. This link sets out all the vaccinations that are offered free on the NHS.

[NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Reporting Infectious Diseases

Please remember that you do need to report incidents of some infectious diseases to the UKHSA Health Protection Team. The document below will guide you on how and when to do this.

[Managing outbreaks and incidents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Annual Flu Immunisations in Schools 2023/24

The government has announced the flu plans for the 2023/24 season.

Vaccinations in school will be offered to all primary age children – Reception through to year 6.

[Flu vaccination 2023 to 2024 Programme briefing for primary schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

For secondary age children, vaccination will be offered to years 7,8,9,10,11 and will include home schooled and others not in mainstream education.

[Adolescent vaccination programme: briefing for secondary schools 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS)

Thank you for supporting this service over the year.

The service provider is changing for 2023/24 which will mean some changes to the way you provide information to parents and the service provider.

Please watch out for communications that will come directly to you from the new provider – Vaccinations UK.

yorkshire@v-uk.co.uk

Gillick Competence

Gillick Competence is a measure that can allow young people to make their own decision about the immunisations that they receive. The professional assessing the competency of the young person must consider a number of things before deeming them competent. There is not a defined set of questions but will include the following:

- the child's age, maturity and mental capacity
- their understanding of the issue and what it involves - including advantages, disadvantages and potential long-term impact
- their understanding of the risks, implications and consequences that may arise from their decision
- how well they understand any advice or information they have been given
- their understanding of any alternative options, if available
- their ability to explain a rationale around their reasoning and decision making.

The link below is for a webinar that provides information about the importance of immunisations in secondary schools and how **Gillick Competence** is going to be used from September 2023 within the context of immunisations. The webinar includes information around Gillick competence, how it is assessed and what the School Age Immunisation Service's protocol is around this.

[Immunisations and Gillick Competence second seminar for secondary schools | NYES Info](#)

Any feedback, thoughts or concerns around Gillick competence and immunisations can be sent to:

nypublichealth@northyorks.gov.uk

Any questions or concerns around either Gillick competence of immunisations in general can also be addressed to the new School Age Immunisation Service provider, Vaccination UK:

yorkshire@v-uk.co.uk

Guidance

The CYPInfo site has a large amount of health information that you can refer to at any time.

[Health of Children and Young People | CYPInfo \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/cypinfo)

There are several government publications that will help you manage and report infections in your setting including a clear exclusion table that allows you to quickly identify which infections mean children should stay at home.

[HPECS guidance Exclusion table.pdf](#)

[What infections are, how they are transmitted and those at higher risk of infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Preventing and controlling infections - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Supporting immunisation programmes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Managing outbreaks and incidents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Specific educational settings and populations: additional health protection considerations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Children and young people settings: tools and resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Early Years \(e-bug.eu\)](#)

<https://www.letsgetbetter.co.uk/get-vaccinated/>

Reporting and Contact Details

If you need to report any outbreaks, please use the contacts below:

UKHSA Health Protection Team Yorkshire and Humber:

0113 386 0300 – 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

0151 909 1219 – out of hours advice

Public Health Team at North Yorkshire Council - if you need additional support after you have spoken to the HPT you can email dph@northyorks.gov.uk