



Date: 4th October 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Subject: Are your child's immunisations up to date? If they aren't, it's time to give your GP a call.

Public Health in Northamptonshire are urging all parents or guardians to check the vaccination status of their children ensuring their vaccinations are up to date as recommended by the national programme.

Particularly important is making sure that children in reception class have had their second dose of MMR vaccination and other preschool booster vaccinations.

Measles Mumps and Rubella (also known as German Measles) are all serious infections. Sadly, they can cause fatal complications or result in serious health issues, including meningitis, brain swelling, liver and spleen damage, as well as blindness, deafness, and heart problems.

All three infections are frequently spread through coughing and sneezing and can be caught by inhaling infected droplets suspended in the air. Those droplets can remain alive on surfaces and then infect children who touch the infected surfaces and then their faces. Anyone can catch Measles, Mumps, or Rubella if they are unvaccinated; however, Measles is one of the most common infectious diseases out of these three.

All three infections - Measles Mumps and Rubella can be prevented by the three in one MMR vaccine. The UK childhood vaccination programme recommends the MMR vaccination in two doses: the first between 12-15 months, and the second from three years and four months up to age five.

The national vaccination programme aims to vaccinate 95% of the eligible children as this not only provides protection to the vaccinated children, but helps build herd immunity for the 5% of children who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Uptake of the MMR vaccination in children has declined because of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to many children being vulnerable to catching these three diseases.

So, if your child has missed out on their MMR it is vital to make sure they are protected by getting the MMR as soon as possible to reduce the risks of these infections and their complications.

Northamptonshire vaccination uptake data shows low uptake of 2nd dose (booster) in eligible preschool children which is essential to receive to provide complete immunity by being fully vaccinated. If your child is one of them who hasn't had either of the 1st or 2nd dose, please ensure you protect your child by getting them vaccinated as soon as possible.

Please call your GP, discuss and arrange an appointment.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Annapurna Sen (GMC Reg: 51799530)

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