To: General Practitioners, walk in centres, out of hours doctors in Yorkshire and the Humber

20 June 2023

Dear Colleague

**RE: Measles update**

Several confirmed cases of measles have been notified in the Yorkshire and the Humber area and it is expected that this number will rise over the coming weeks.

In addition to the information in the letter dated 2 June, please find attached a poster pdf aimed at reception and administration staff to help avoid waiting room exposures and also please see two corrections to the previous information given.

1. To confirm infection take a buccal swab and send for Measles PCR using a COPAN E-swab (pink top and not a green top as stated in the previous letter).



Please note: Where COPAN E-swabs are not available please submit a dry swab in a plain universal sample pot. Specimens **must not** be sent in charcoal medium as this interferes with the PCR test. Please follow any separate advice that comes from your local NHS laboratory that reflects specific local arrangements.

1. Please note that exposure of any unvaccinated staff contacts is defined as face to face contact **of any length of time** or spending more than 15 minutes in a confined area with the case e.g. in the same clinical room. **Staff** **should be excluded from work from the 5th day after the first exposure to 21 days after the final exposure unless they have satisfactory evidence of protection (measles IgG or two doses of a measles containing vaccine).** Please make sure all health professionals and reception staff are fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella to protect staff and patients and to avoid lengthy exclusion periods applying.

**Notification of measles cases to the Health Protection Team**

While case numbers in Yorkshire and Humber remain low, all suspected measles cases should be promptly notified to the local Health Protection Team (HPT) on **0113 386 0300** to facilitate timely public health action, including urgent risk assessment of any vulnerable contacts.

**Infection prevention and control**

Please ensure that appropriate triage and isolation procedures are in place so that those presenting with a fever and rash can be isolated immediately, to avoid exposing others (including practice staff) and that all practice staff, including reception, are aware of measles symptoms and infection control measures. Measles posters and leaflets in a variety of languages are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak> and [*here*](https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Smeaslespullupbannerartwork).

**Continue to promote MMR vaccination:**

* Please continue to identify patients who are not fully vaccinated with MMR and advise them to complete the course of vaccination.
* children should receive their two scheduled doses of MMR vaccine at the ages of 12 months and 3 years and 4 months.
* MMR vaccine can be given from six months of age before travel to a high-risk country. Children who receive an MMR dose before their first birthday still require two further doses to be given at the recommended times.
* patients over the age of three years and four months who do not have two recorded doses of MMR vaccine should be caught up opportunistically. There is no upper age limit to offering MMR vaccine and adults who are not protected should also be caught up.
* new entrants from abroad and newly registered patients should have their immunisation history checked and missing doses caught up.
* post-natal women should have their MMR vaccine history checked and offered any outstanding doses.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Simon Padfield

Acting Regional Deputy Director

UKHSA Yorkshire and Humber