

Schools, preschools and nurseries in East Bournemouth

Public Health England, Follaton House
Plymouth Road
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5NE
5th July 2017

Dear Headteacher/Principal,

Measles in Bournemouth

I am writing to let you know that we have been notified of three cases of confirmed measles living in the East Bournemouth area.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness spread through coughing and sneezing and close personal contact. Most people recover completely from measles, however, on rare occasions there can be serious complications.

The first stage of measles includes a runny nose, conjunctivitis (red eyes), a cough and an increasing fever that comes and goes. A rash appears on day 3 or 4 while the child is still feverish and miserable.

Anyone with suspected measles should be excluded from school or work until five days after the rash first appeared.

This is an opportunity to remind people that two doses of the MMR vaccine offer high protection against measles, provided the first dose is given after 12 months of age. Unless advised otherwise, parents should follow the recommended NHS vaccination schedule;

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/vaccination-schedule-age-checklist.aspx>

MMR is also beneficial if given within 72 hours of exposure to the virus.

If parents or carers do report that their children have signs or symptoms of measles, please ask them to contact their GP to seek medical advice; **ask them to telephone the GP surgery before visiting.**

It would also be helpful if you could ask for permission for you to pass on their details to the Health Protection Team (0300 303 8162 option 1 option 1).

Further information is available from NHS Choices:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Yours faithfully

Chaamala Klinger
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control
Public Health England SW