

City & Hackney Public Health Service

Hackney Council

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Dear Education and Early Years Providers

Re: Escalation to level 3 for measles for all London boroughs, and implications for education and early years settings.

Cases of measles are continuing to rise in London, and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now designated London, as a whole, to be at level 3 transmission for measles.

The escalation level is based on increasing case numbers in the capital, evidence of sustained community transmission, and the capacity within the Health Protection Teams (HPTs) to prioritize and ensure the most vulnerable contacts are identified and protected.

This means that Health Protection Teams should still be notified of all suspected cases as usual, but will only follow up with vulnerable contacts (those that are immunosuppressed, unvaccinated pregnant women, and children aged <1 year).

Implications for education and childcare settings

- Measles is a highly contagious, airborne disease caused by a virus. It can spread from person to person quickly, especially in education and early years settings.
- Some people are considered very vulnerable to severe measles infection. This includes:
 - Immunosuppressed people
 - Unvaccinated pregnant women
 - Children under the age of one
- You must **contact the North London Health Protection Team (NL HPT) if there are any likely or confirmed measles cases**, especially if vulnerable contacts may have been exposed.
 - Telephone: 0300 3030 450 (includes out of hours)
 - Email: london.region@ukhsa.gov.uk or phe.london.region@nhs.net for PII (patient identifiable information)

- If a parent, carer or staff are concerned that they or a child have symptoms, they should **contact their doctor or NHS 111** (please call ahead before visiting a healthcare setting with suspected measles).
- The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is highly effective for preventing measles. 2 doses of the vaccine (offered at 12 months, and at 3 years, 4 months) provide lifelong protection.
 - Unvaccinated children, young people and adults can still get their vaccines and should contact their GP to make an appointment to catch up on missed doses; **it is never too late to get up to date.**
 - Staff who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated should be encouraged to seek advice from their GP.
- Identify potentially vulnerable contacts of measles infection and proactively contact your occupational health and infection control teams to get advice on managing vulnerable contacts.
- Refer to the [measles information pack for education and childcare settings](#) for more information on measles, and prevention and management.

Yours sincerely,

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