



Directorate of Public Health
NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters
Kirklands Hospital
Public Health Department
Fallside Road
Bothwell
G71 8BB

Dear Parent/Carer,

Currently, parts of the UK and Europe are seeing a big increase in the number of people getting measles - there have been over 45,000 cases of measles in Europe in 2023 compared to under 1000 in 2022. There is a potential risk of outbreaks in Scotland as some of our population are not fully vaccinated.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is easily spread between people, especially people who have not been vaccinated. It can be very unpleasant - most people who catch it experience a high fever and a rash and will be very unwell. It can lead to complications in one in every 15 people, such as infection of the lungs (pneumonia) and brain (encephalitis). Being fully vaccinated with two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine gives excellent protection against measles.

Young people should receive two doses of the MMR vaccine. In Scotland, the first dose is offered between the age of 12 and 13 months, and the second at 3 years 4 months old. However, for various reasons children may have missed it at these times, and if this is the case, it can be given at any age to ensure they are fully protected.

Why are we writing to you?

You should check your child's vaccination records to ensure that they have previously received two doses of the MMR vaccine. If they have received both doses, then they are well protected and no further action is required.

The school immunisation team is currently undertaking an MMR catch up campaign across all secondary schools within Lanarkshire. This means that if your child is not recorded as fully vaccinated then your child should have or should shortly be receiving a consent form and information about the MMR vaccine to take home and discuss with you. Please complete the consent form and return it to the school so that the school immunisation team know you are happy for your child to be vaccinated. Please be aware they may contact you for some further information.

The school immunisation team do run a catch up session in each secondary school, so if your child missed the first session, please contact the team on **0300 303 3229** to arrange their MMR vaccination.

If you receive one of these consent forms and your child has already had two doses of the MMR vaccine, it is important that you call the school immunisation team on **0300 303 3229** so they can update your child's record.

You may have previously asked not to be invited for vaccines, however due to the current increase in measles infections, we are writing to you again because under the Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2008 NHS Scotland has a duty of care to inform you of the vaccines available to your child.

What if:

- **You have not received a consent form but you believe your child is not fully vaccinated?**
- **You are now interested in MMR vaccination for your child, and the sessions at your child's school have now past?**

The NHS Lanarkshire Vaccination Service could provide this vaccination. Please contact the Vaccination Contact Centre on **01698 687456** to register your interest in this. As soon as there is capacity to offer MMR catch up clinics you will be contacted to arrange assessment and possible vaccination of your child.

Please note the opening times for the Vaccination Contact Centre phone line are:

- Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm
- Friday 9am-4:30pm

Further information

To find out more about the MMR vaccine and also the symptoms of measles, how it's spread and when to get medical advice, including in other languages and formats, please visit:



<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/mmr-vaccine/>

Or scan the QR code.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Prempeh', written in a cursive style.

Dr Henry Prempeh

Immunisation coordinator

NHS Lanarkshire