

Farnham Primary School

'Together we discover, believe & achieve.'

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

MEASLES

Please be aware that the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Team has confirmed a rise in measles cases in Bradford District. While the number of cases is still relatively small, measles spreads very easily so even a small rise can lead to wider outbreaks if people are not protected. UKHSA is monitoring the situation closely and working with local partners.

Please take the time to read the guidance below and do not hesitate to contact the main school office if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



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Measles cases rise in Bradford District

Briefing note for VCSE and community partners

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Team has confirmed a rise in measles cases in Bradford District. While the number of cases is still relatively small, measles spreads very easily so even a small rise can lead to wider outbreaks if people are not protected. UKHSA is monitoring the situation closely and working with local partners.

Measles is highly infectious, and some people are at greater risk of becoming seriously unwell, including unvaccinated young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems or long-term conditions. Vaccination rates vary across Bradford - communities where vaccination rates are lower will be more vulnerable, this includes South Asian, Central and Eastern European, and other minority groups.

How community organisations can help

- share trusted information about symptoms
- signpost people to NHS 111 or GP practices by phone or online for advice rather than attending in person
- help people understand that measles is very infectious and can be a dangerous illness
- talk positively about the importance of MMR vaccination in protecting communities
- encourage families to check if their vaccines are up to date, especially if children have missed doses
- support recent new arrivals to have their immunisation history checked

What to look out for: signs and symptoms

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Key symptoms include:

- a high fever
- runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- cough
- sore, red or watery eyes
- small, clustered, white spots inside the mouth that usually appear 2 to 3 days before the rash
- a blotchy rash that often begins on the face or behind the ears before spreading. The measles rash may look different depending on skin tones:
 - o on lighter skin, the rash typically appears as red or reddish-brown blotches
 - o on black or brown skin, the rash may appear darker than surrounding skin, may look brown, purple or grey, and can be harder to see
 - o on all skin tones, the rash can feel slightly raised or rough to the touch.

If someone has symptoms and thinks it might be measles, they should avoid visiting a GP practice or A&E department centre without calling first as measles spreads very easily.

Where to signpost people for advice

- Call NHS 111 if you are worried about symptoms or need urgent advice
- Go online to 111.nhs.co.uk for assessment of people aged 5 and over
- Call your local GP practice – for vaccination queries and routine support
- NHS website – clear information about symptoms, what to do, and the MMR vaccine:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles>

About MMR vaccination

The MMR vaccine is the **best protection** against measles. It is **safe, effective** and long-lasting. **Two doses** are needed for protection: the first is offered around a child's first birthday, and the second at around three years and four months old.

Because measles spreads so easily, even a small number of unvaccinated people can lead to wider outbreaks. That's why making sure you and your family are fully vaccinated is so important.

If you or your child have missed a dose, you can **catch up at any age** – it is **never too late** to get protected. The MMR vaccine is **free on the NHS** and having it usually takes only a few minutes.

If you're unsure whether you or your children have had both doses, please contact your GP practice and they can check for you.

Resources

Posters, leaflets (in multiple languages) and reliable public information are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation#measles,-mumps-and-rubella-\(mmr\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation#measles,-mumps-and-rubella-(mmr))