

11 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Important information for parents and carers – Measles outbreak in Kirklees

We have been informed by Kirklees Council's Public Health Team that they are currently responding to a measles outbreak in North Kirklees, mainly affecting the WF13 and WF17 areas.

Measles is highly infectious and spreads very easily from person to person. Most recent cases have occurred in people who were not vaccinated.

Measles symptoms usually start with

A high temperature
A cough
A runny or blocked nose
Red or watery eyes.

A rash normally appears a few days later and may spread across the body. Some people also develop small white spots inside their mouth.

How you can protect your child

The best protection against measles is vaccination.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine provide excellent protection against measles, mumps and rubella. A porcine-free MMR vaccine is available for families who have religious or cultural concerns regarding porcine-derived ingredients.

If you are unsure whether your child is fully vaccinated, please check your child's Red Book, or contact your GP practice. It is never too late to catch up on missed vaccinations.

What you should do if you think your child has measles

Contact your GP practice or NHS 111 as soon as possible for advice.

Please phone ahead before attending any healthcare setting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

If your child has suspected or confirmed measles, they should stay at home and avoid contact with others until four days after the rash first appears.

By ensuring children and young people are fully vaccinated, we can help protect our families, schools and wider community.

For more information about the measles vaccination search online for '*NHS measles vaccine*'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'JB O'Donnell'.

Jane O'Donnell
Head of Health Protection