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20<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**To: Parents/Guardians/Carers of children in Croydon Schools**

I have been notified of a number of cases of confirmed and suspected measles in the Croydon area. Some of these people are at schools in Croydon.

**What is Measles?**

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness and can have serious complications. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the safest way to protect against measles.

**MMR vaccination**

I strongly recommend that you make sure your child is up to date with MMR vaccine. The first dose is usually given at one year of age and the second dose from three years and four months. Two doses of MMR vaccine give the best protection against measles. The vaccine is safe and effective.

If your child has not had two doses of MMR vaccine, please contact your GP surgery or practice nurse to get an appointment for them to have it. If you are not sure whether they have had two doses, please check with your GP surgery.

**Further information**

If your child has a weakened immune system (i.e. is immunocompromised) please contact your GP for advice.

If you think that your child may have measles, please contact your doctor. Please phone ahead and mention measles, so you can be isolated when you arrive at the surgery, to stop the disease spreading to others in the waiting room.

Children with measles are infectious for four days after the rash starts. Please keep your child away from school or nursery until after this time and avoid contact with other people.

**NHS choices has more information about measles:**

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

With best wishes

Rachel Flowers



Director of Public Health -Croydon Council