

Ealing Council  
Perceval House  
14-16 Uxbridge Road  
London W5 2HL

**Tel** 020 8825 5000

8 January 2024

Dear Headteacher,

### **Re: Rise in measles in North West London**

In the last few weeks there has been an increase in the number of cases of measles in North West London, including a few among Ealing children. This is in the context of a rise in measles nationally and in London, linked to low immunisation coverage. Measles is extremely infectious and can cause serious illnesses, including pneumonia and meningitis.

Please see these UK Health Security Agency videos for more context.

[Potential for measles outbreak in London](#)

[Infectiousness of measles](#)

We would appreciate your support preventing a further rise in measles case in Ealing by the following actions:

- 1) Share the parent/carer letter to all parents in your school.
- 2) A weblink to a measles information page can be [translated](#) if you need to send this to your school community.
- 3) Children with rash and fever (over 38°C) should be excluded from school and asked to seek clinical opinion.
- 4) If there is a case of measles with a school, the UK Health Security Agency health protection team will conduct a risk assessment with the school. They will ask for information about staff and students who they consider vulnerable in order to determine further necessary actions. If there is more than one case of measles in a school (an outbreak) the health protection team, local authority and NHS may work together to organisation an immunisation session at the school. In this case the NHS school immunisation team will request class lists from the school so that they can identify those children who need immunisation.

- 5) Schools should review MMR status of staff and encourage immunisation for staff who do not know their status/are unimmunised.
- 6) We will be clarifying the need to risk assess clinically vulnerable staff and pupils in the absence of an outbreak of measles in school with UKHSA and will put out more comms on this ASAP.

If you have any further queries, please contact Raj Chowdhury, Schools Health and Safety, on [Chowdhuryr@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:Chowdhuryr@ealing.gov.uk) or 0208 825 7289.

Many thanks for your continued support and help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Bryden, Director of Public Health, Ealing Council



Robert South, Strategic Director of Children's Services, Ealing Council