



Health Protection Agency

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08 July 2011

Dear Parents

Measles cases have continued to increase since December 2010. Latest figures from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) reveal that 496* laboratory confirmed cases of measles have been reported in England and Wales up to the end of May 2011, surpassing the annual 2010 total of 374 cases.

The new cases of measles are predominately in children and adults under 19 years of age and the vast majority are unvaccinated. Measles cases have been associated with small clusters in universities, schools or families or associated with travel abroad. Other European countries have also seen increases in measles cases in recent months with over 11,000 cases reported across 35 European countries in the first four months of the year. The countries mainly affected are France, Germany and Spain.

It's that time of year when children are travelling on school trips and family holidays and we are reminding the parents and young adults of the importance of immunisation before they travel. If you are travelling to any of the above mentioned European countries make sure that your children are vaccinated against Measles. We cannot stress enough that measles is serious and in some cases it can be fatal.

Children need to be vaccinated with two doses of MMR vaccine to protect them against Measles Mumps and Rubella. If your child is not fully immunised please contact your GP to arrange vaccination.

I have attached a frequently asked questions prepared by the Health Protection Agency. For further information please visit the Health Protection Agency website on www.hpa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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