

Measles

Measles can cause severe illness, especially in certain at-risk groups including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weak immunity. Complications could mean hospitalisation, permanent disability, and in rare cases, it can even cause death.



MMR vaccination is available at any age

The NHS have launched a **catch up campaign** for missed MMR vaccines. The NHS will contact all parents of children aged 6 to 11 as part of this, encouraging MMR uptake.

If children (and young adults) have missed their vaccinations in the past, it is important for them to have the vaccine now, especially in light of recent cases/outbreaks in other parts of England.

Children usually have the first dose of the MMR vaccine at 1 year-old and the second dose at 3 years and 4 months. A version of MMR is available which does **not** contain pork ingredients.

Advice for parents if measles is suspected:

- Contact NHS 111 or your GP practice by telephone or online, but to help prevent the virus spreading, **please do not attend any healthcare setting in person** unless requested to by a healthcare professional. Instead, phone for advice and say it could be measles.
- Suspected measles may cause concern. Advice is available on the [NHS website](#), [UKHSA webpages](#), NHS 111 and from the person's GP.
- **For further advice** on what to do if you suspect your child has measles, please follow this link: [What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)



*We encourage all parents to check their child's vaccination status by **looking at their red book**. If there is no record, parents can **contact their GP** to confirm vaccination status and to request an appointment if necessary.*