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14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian

## Increase in measles across Cheshire and Merseyside - July 2025

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported an increase in measles cases across Cheshire and Merseyside and is encouraging people to check that they and their children have had two doses of the MMR vaccine. The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella.

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools or if travelling abroad to countries where vaccination levels are low. It can be a very unpleasant illness, and, in some children, it can be serious and lead to hospitalisation and complications such as pneumonia, meningitis, blindness or seizures (fits). In rare cases it can cause death.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine will give lifelong protection against measles, mumps and rubella. The vaccination is free and easily available from your GP at any age. For children, the first dose of the vaccine is typically given at 12 months of age, and the second at around 3 years and 4 months. In addition, MMR and other vaccinations are offered through the Living Well Mobile Vaccination Service. Scheduled dates for July are listed at the end of this letter.

MMR vaccination has been available for many years and is proven to be safe, and extremely effective in protecting against measles infection. Immunisation doesn't just protect your child; it also helps to protect your family and the whole community, especially those under 12 months of age and [children who, for medical reasons, can't be immunised](#).

**Please check your child's Red Book to see if they have received MMR vaccinations as scheduled or check with your GP surgery if you're unsure.**

Most healthy adults will have developed some immunity to measles but can still receive two doses of the vaccine from their GP too.

Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

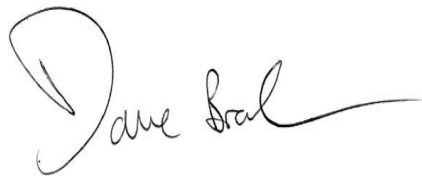
**Anyone with symptoms is advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.**

If you or a member of your family have a weakened immune system, are unvaccinated and pregnant, or are under 12 months of age, and have been in a setting at the same time as someone who is a 'likely' or 'confirmed' measles case, please seek advice from your GP or midwife and tell them that you / they may have been exposed to measles.

You can find further information on MMR and other childhood vaccinations here: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them>

For more information about measles, please visit the [nhs.uk website](https://www.nhs.uk).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Bradburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dave Bradburn**  
Director of Public Health  
Wirral

**Living Well Mobile Service scheduled dates:**

**Wednesday 16 July, 10.30 am - 4.00 pm**

Brassey Gardens Children Centre,  
2 Brassey Street,  
Birkenhead,  
CH41 8DA

**Wednesday 23 July, 10.30 am - 4.00 pm**

The Livvy', Equilibrium North West CIC,  
Livingstone Street Play & Community Centre,  
130 St Anne Street,  
Birkenhead,  
CH41 3HX