



15th June 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) today issued a press release tragically confirming the death of two children from complications of measles in England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-measles-figures-published-as-two-deaths-confirmed-in-2026>). This is a stark reminder of the importance of vaccination to prevent children getting measles.

Around 15% of children in Bristol are currently unvaccinated. We have only seen a very small number of cases so far this year in the city and thankfully no deaths. We are however encouraging all families to check that children have received two doses of the MMR (or MMRV) vaccine, appropriate for their age. Taking action now will help protect our children and communities and prevent the risk of any spread over the summer months.

Measles is a virus that spreads very easily. Babies, young children, and those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of complications.

The MMR/MMRV vaccine is safe, effective, and free on the NHS. It protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. MMRV also protects against chickenpox. Vaccination remains the best protection.

It's important for parents to take up the offer of vaccination for their children when offered at 1 year of age with the second dose at 18 months. If children or young adults have missed these vaccinations in the past, it's important to take up the vaccine now from GPs, particularly in light of the recent cases.

Check your child's Red Book to see if they've 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.

If a child develops symptoms, they should stay at home and contact their GP or NHS 111 before attending any setting.

Symptoms of measles include:

- High fever
- Sore, red, watery eyes

- Coughing
- Aching and feeling generally unwell
- A blotchy rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms. The rash looks brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin.

For more information about measles, please see the NHS website:

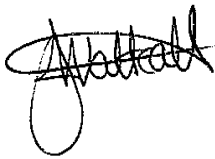
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

For advice on the signs and symptoms of measles and guidance on how to protect your child, please see the UKHSA blog: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/05/what-are-the-symptoms-of-measles-and-how-can-i-best-protect-my-child/>

For more information about the MMR or MMRV vaccine and to check eligibility and the vaccination schedule, please see the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Yours faithfully,



Julie Northcott
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Director Education and Schools