

Stanborough



Mathematics & Computing Academy

Headteacher: Mrs M John

January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

HCC OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION - LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING MEASLES

Measles cases in the UK have been rising since November 2023. While Hertfordshire has no outbreaks at the moment, we are close to London and the West Midlands where there has been a large rise in cases. The UK Health Security Agency has declared the increase in cases of measles a national incident (19 January 2024). There is the potential for cases and outbreaks in Hertfordshire as uptake of the Measles Vaccination (MMR) in the county is lower than recommended.

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease that can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences. Measles spreads quickly from person to person, especially in schools. Spending more than 15 minutes in direct contact with someone infected with measles is sufficient to transmit the virus. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing, close personal contact or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. For more information about measles and the symptoms, see [Measles \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Important for staff and pupils

If someone thinks they have measles they should not come into school or work for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears.

Your school could be impacted if unvaccinated staff or children contract measles. Unvaccinated individuals are at risk of contracting measles and, if identified as a close contact of someone with measles they may be asked to self-isolate for up to 21 days.

In addition further advice and guidance can be found here:

[MEASLES - Protect yourself, protect others \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>

Yours sincerely

Sarah Perman
Director of Public Health

- Grow and Succeed -

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