



21 June 2024

Dear Colleague,

Re: Escalation to level 3 for measles for all London boroughs and implications for NHS and all Local Authorities

Following on from the letter to the NHS and Local Authorities dated 3rd June 2024, UKHSA London has reviewed the current epidemiology and now designated London as a whole to be at level 3 transmission for measles. Cases are rising across London and capacity within Health Protection Teams (HPTs) must be prioritised to ensure the most vulnerable contacts are identified and protected.

To remind you, for UKHSA London, level 3 means we are moving away from a full risk assessment of individual cases to only following up vulnerable contacts and high-risk settings. This will focus the health protection resources on protecting those at most risk of severe measles. Specifically, across London:

- All cases will still be routinely contacted by text by HPTs and only followed up if they report vulnerable contacts.
- HPTs will no longer routinely call an Incident Management Team (IMT) meeting for school outbreaks or advise additional school-based vaccinations following an outbreak.

Implications for NHS settings in London

This should have little impact on NHS settings. The HPT should still be notified of all suspected cases, as usual. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) teams should note that London HPTs will no longer be informing healthcare settings of instances where staff or patients have been exposed to a measles case. This includes Primary Care settings.

All healthcare settings should continue to risk assess any exposures. IPC teams are able to support the risk assessments and follow up in secondary care and community settings.

The Health Protection Team is available to support the management of vulnerable contacts in Primary Care settings and these settings should be aware of how to contact [Health Protection Teams](#) if they have such exposures.

Please do continue communication with your NHS services about staff vaccination, and the importance of triage and appropriate isolation of suspected cases at their settings.

Implications for Local Authorities

Local Authorities across London should alert high risk settings, such as prisons, asylum settings and also educational and early years settings, that:

- Measles cases have increased in London
- Some people are considered very vulnerable to severe measles infection. This includes immunosuppressed people, unvaccinated pregnant women and children under the age of one. Therefore, settings should be aware of how to contact [Health Protection Teams](#) if they have vulnerable contacts that have been exposed to a single or multiple cases in their setting.
- The settings specified above should proactively contact their occupational health and infection control teams to get advice on managing any vulnerable contacts.
- Settings should continue to support uptake of the [MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) in their settings. Vaccination is the safest and most effective way to protect against measles. Two doses of the MMR vaccine offers long term protection.
- All educational settings have been sent a UKHSA measles resource pack [Education pack for schools for measles | ADPH London](#).

LA public health teams should continue with their communication plans on promoting MMR vaccination especially in areas and communities with low uptake. Please share stakeholder toolkit [UKHSA communications toolkits - Google Drive](#)

With our continued thanks to the whole system,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Yvonne Young
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UKHSA London Region