



**Havering**  
L O N D O N B O R O U G H

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[www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk)

Dear parents/carers

**Re: Increased risk of measles in London and the UK**

Measles is highly infectious and can be a really serious illness: for every five children who get measles, one will require a hospital visit; for every 15 children who get measles, one will be affected by serious conditions, such as blindness, meningitis and sepsis.

Measles cases are rising in the UK, and it is likely that there will be outbreaks across London. MMR vaccination rates in Havering and London have fallen over the last decade, leaving a large number of children and young adults at risk of infection.

**The safest and most effective way to protect yourself, your children and your community from measles is to make sure that you and your children are up to date with your MMR vaccinations.**

Two doses of the MMR vaccine provide 99% protection against measles, and it's never too late to get vaccinated. You can check whether your child's vaccinations are up to date by contacting your GP or by looking in your child's red book. If you or your child haven't been fully vaccinated (two doses of MMR) then you can get vaccinated at your GP practice.

The local school age immunisation service provider, Vaccination UK, is also offering MMR vaccinations to primary school-aged children via school-based clinics and at community catch up clinics. **The next community clinics are scheduled for Saturday 9 March and Saturday 23 March at Fairkytes (Frys Gallery) 11:30am - 2:00pm - email [Havering@v-uk.co.uk](mailto:Havering@v-uk.co.uk) or call 02033432400 (option 1) to book an appointment.**

Halal (gelatine-free) MMR vaccinations are available and can be requested when you make an appointment.

For more information about measles and the MMR vaccine, please visit the following webpages:

- [www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)
- [www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/)

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ansell,  
Director of Public Health,  
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**The Havering you want to be part of**