Dear colleague,

**Re: Measles outbreaks in England linked to importations from Europe**

Since November, measles outbreaks have been declared in Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester and Surrey that are linked to large outbreaks in Europe, with Romania, Italy and Germany being the worst affected countries. All of the cases have been reported in children and adults who have not received two doses of the MMR vaccine.

Measles is highly infectious and can lead to serious complications, particularly in immunosuppressed individuals and young infants. It is also more severe in pregnancy, and increases the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth or preterm delivery.

Under-immunised communities, such as recent migrants and travellers, are at risk of catching measles in the UK. This risk is increased in those that travel to the affected countries, currently Romania, Italy and Germany.

**Implications for acute trusts:**

* suspected measles cases (a rash and a fever) should be isolated immediately to protect other patients.
* recent travel to countries with ongoing measles outbreaks like Romania, Italy and Germany increases the likelihood of a measles diagnosis.
* all suspected measles cases should be promptly notified by phone to the:
  + [local Health Protection Team](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) (HPT) to facilitate timely public health action
  + hospital Infection Control Team who can undertake a risk assessment and provide appropriate advice.
* all healthcare workers (including receptionists, ambulance workers etc.) should have satisfactory evidence of protection against measles to protect both themselves and their patients. Satisfactory evidence of protection includes documentation of having received two or more doses of a measles containing vaccine and/or a positive measles IgG antibody test.

Resources including national guidelines for health professionals and free to order posters and leaflets for patients are listed in **appendix 1** below. **Appendix 1. Measles resources**

**National guidelines**

* PHE National Measles Guidelines. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-measles-guidelines>
* PHE Guidance for measles post-exposure prophylaxis. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-post-exposure-prophylaxis>
* PHE Measles guidance on international travel and travel by air, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-public-health-response-to-infectious-cases-travelling-by-air>

* Measles self-identify poster for GP surgeries/walk-in centres

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak>

Free copies of **PHE leaflets and posters** can be ordered through the Health and Social Care Orderline: <https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/contact.jsf> alternatively, you can call **0300 123 1003.**

* Think measles leaflet - product code 3205760

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-patient-leaflet-for-young-people>

* Think measles poster - product code 3205852

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-poster-about-measles-in-young-people>

* Call ahead measles poster – product code 3207737 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-poster-for-young-people>
* Pregnancy leaflet – product code 2903655

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-how-to-help-protect-you-and-your-baby>

* Have you had your MMR flyer (for mums who have just given birth) Product code:3325595

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-vaccination-have-you-had-your-mmr>

* MMR leaflet – product code: 3219250

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet>

* Measles EIW poster – product code: 2900430 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-poster>