



5th March 2024

People's Services
St Helens Borough Council
PO Box 512
ST HELENS
WA10 9JX

Is your child protected against measles?

Dear parent / carer / guardian,

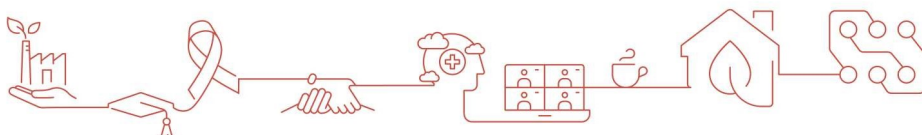
We are writing to you to ask for your support in checking your child's measles vaccination status, by looking at the vaccine page in their red book or by contacting your GP practice to check if your child has had two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccinations and if not, to make an appointment.

Nationally we have seen a significant increase in cases of measles in the last few months and we are starting to see an increase in cases in the north west.

Measles is a highly contagious illness, easily passed on through coughs and sneezes and can cause serious complications in some circumstances, with those who have never received the MMR vaccine at greatest risk.

Being vaccinated is highly effective at preventing people getting measles. Having both doses of the MMR vaccine provides up to 99% effective life-long protection against measles. It is one of the safest and most successful vaccinations used in the world today. According to the WHO, the MMR vaccine has saved an estimated 17.1 million lives since the year 2000, with over 500 million doses given across 100 countries in the last forty years.

The MMR vaccines have been part of the UK routine vaccine schedule since 1988. All children should have received two doses of the MMR vaccine by the time they start school (or by 3 years and 4 months of age). More people are now coming forward for vaccination but there are still some people yet to have the vaccination.



Please check if your child had two doses of the MMR vaccine to protect them, your family and community against measles. If you are unsure, please check your child's red book or contact your GP, who can offer any missed vaccinations so you can catch-up. If your child wasn't vaccinated for MMR before, they can be vaccinated **for free** at any age with two doses, one month apart.

If you would like to learn more the MMR vaccine or how to spot signs and symptoms of measles, please refer to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth du Plessis', written in a cursive style.

Ruth du Plessis

Director of Public Health
