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Early Years Newsletter

1 March 2024



Please see information below regarding an update about Measles from Public Health

Measles key messages:

- There are currently increased levels of measles circulating
- MMR vaccination is the best form of defence against measles and has the added advantage of also preventing rubella and mumps. It is never too late to catch up. The MMR vaccine is free on the NHS, whatever your age. You can protect your community, **both staff and children**, by encouraging uptake of the MMR vaccine which can be accessed via GP surgeries.

- You can find out more information about measles and MMR at the following links:

General information: [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Information for parents: [What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](http://blog.gov.uk)

Information on MMR: MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

A copy of the full letter can be found [here](#).

The following information and attached letter is targeted more to early years settings

Free UKHSA webinar (measles focused) - Health Protection in Early Years and Education Settings 5 March at 4pm

- This free webinar, run by the UKHSA SW Health Protection Team, gives attendees the opportunity to learn about childhood infections in early years and educational settings. Whilst we always provide a general introduction about preventing and managing cases and outbreaks, the focus of this additional webinar will be on acute respiratory infections (colds, covid and flu) and measles (we will also cover scarlet fever and whooping cough). It will take place on Tuesday 5th March 4-5pm.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and will also receive the informative slide pack.
- Any early years or school staff can attend the session – book a slot here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-protection-in-early-years-and-educational-settings-registration-830110521917>

A reminder of some useful resources – please keep these links on your desktop so that you have quick and easy access to them when you need them:

- The 'spotty book' has now been replaced by national guidance [Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) – this useful A-Z provides advice on how settings can manage specific infectious diseases by themselves, and also indicates when you should contact the SW Health Protection Team (SWHPT). Most infections can be safely and effectively managed by setting themselves so we highly recommend that you refer to this guidance before contacting the SWHPT.
- We recognise that the national guidance doesn't have everything that the old spotty book had, so the SW Health Protection Team has partnered with SW Councils to provide regional health protection resources - including a recording of the popular 'health protection webinar' that we run each half term, as well as posters, leaflets and a range of other resources on topics including Group A Strep, norovirus and respiratory infections. Take a look here [UKHSA Infection Protection and Winter Readiness and Control Toolkit for Early Years and Education Settings - South West Councils \(swcouncils.gov.uk\)](http://swcouncils.gov.uk)



If you have queries about any of the above, please email

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