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**Dear Parent/Carer**

### **Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination campaign**

Currently, parts of the UK and Europe are seeing a big increase in the number of people getting measles - there have been over 45,000 cases of measles in Europe in 2023 compared to under 1000 in 2022. Children under 10 years of age have been particularly affected by the current outbreak, although cases have also been seen in unvaccinated young people and adults. There is a potential risk of outbreaks in Scotland as some of our population are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is easily spread between people, especially people who have not been vaccinated. It can be very unpleasant - most people who catch it experience high fever and a rash and will be very unwell. It can lead to complications in one in every 15 people, such as infection of the lungs (pneumonia) and brain (encephalitis). Being fully vaccinated with two doses of MMR vaccine gives excellent protection against measles.

### **Why are we writing to you?**

Young people should receive two doses of the MMR vaccine. In Scotland, the first dose is offered between the age of 12 and 13 months, and the second at 3 years 4 months. If it is missed at these times, it can be given at any age.

It is very important to ensure that your child is vaccinated before going on holiday, as it is possible for them to catch measles in areas of the UK and abroad which are experiencing a high number of cases.

### **What should I do next?**

If you believe that your child has not received two doses of MMR vaccine, it is important that they catch up on these vaccines to protect them against measles. NHS Lanarkshire Vaccination Service is offering clinics for children to receive MMR vaccine should they require it.

Please check your child's red book or contact their GP to check how many doses of MMR vaccine they have had. If they have had two doses, no further action is required. If they have had zero or one dose of the MMR vaccine, please call the Vaccination Service as soon as possible on **01698 687456** to arrange an appointment for your child's vaccination.

You may have previously asked not to be invited for vaccines, however due to the current increase in measles infections, we are writing to you again because under the Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2008 NHS Scotland has a duty of care to inform you of the vaccines available to your child.

### **Protecting you and your family**

If you have another child/children 5 years old or under, that has not had the required number of MMR vaccines for their age, please contact your health visitor to organise MMR vaccination with them.

Check if you and other adults in the family have been vaccinated against measles. You can do this by contacting your GP who can check your records and refer you to the vaccination service if you need to be vaccinated.

If your GP is unable to help and you have checked any vaccination records you have at home, you can call our Vaccination helpline on 01698 687456 to arrange an appointment for assessment and possible vaccination.

### **Further information**

To find out more about the MMR vaccine and also the symptoms of measles, how it's spread and when to get medical advice, including in other languages and formats, please visit:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/mmr-vaccine/>

Or scan the QR code.



**Yours faithfully,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Prempeh', written in a cursive style.

Dr Henry Prempeh  
Immunisation coordinator  
NHS Lanarkshire