



Health Protection Agency

Cumbria & Lancashire
Health Protection Unit

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**Parents of children attending
schools in Cumbria and Lancashire**

Our Ref: KL/AAH LET Measles parents 270411

27th April 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: School trips to France and risk of measles

This is to alert you that France is currently experiencing a large outbreak of measles with over 3700 cases reported this year. Outbreaks have also been reported in countries bordering France and in other parts of Europe. http://www.euvac.net/graphics/euvac/pdf/2011_jan_feb.pdf

There has also been an increase in confirmed cases of measles during the past month in the UK. Most cases are in unimmunised older children attending secondary school, in students attending university and in adults. Many of these cases have links to cases in France.

If travelling to France, there is considerable risk that your child may catch measles if they are not protected against the disease. Unless your child has already received two doses of vaccine, we would advise you to obtain MMR vaccination before travelling to anywhere in mainland Europe.

Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine

Immunisation with MMR vaccine is the safest way that parents can protect their children against measles, mumps and rubella which are diseases that can have serious consequences for babies, young children and their families. Not all people respond adequately to a single dose of vaccine, so to ensure protection, people need to receive two doses of MMR. Two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine offer full protection against the three illnesses, provided the first dose is given from 12 months of age.

In the UK two doses of MMR are given, the first at around 12 months and the second around the time of school entry.

- If your child is older than 12 months of age and has never had MMR, please contact your GP to give the first dose as soon as possible.
- If your child has only had a single dose of MMR a second dose is required.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Measles/>
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Lamden".

Dr Kenneth Lamden, Consultant in Health Protection