

30 April 2024

## Important information about measles

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Cases of measles are still rising in England and cases are now being reported in our area. Measles is **very** infectious and spreads easily between people who have not been vaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools.

Measles is a serious illness. Some children with measles need to be admitted to hospital. Measles can cause pneumonia and inflammation (swelling) of the brain. Sometimes it can cause long term health problems or death.

Measles is prevented by vaccination. Two MMR vaccinations provide excellent life-long protection from catching measles.

If your child has not been vaccinated and has close contact with someone with measles, they may be asked to stay at home and miss school or be kept away from childcare/nursery for 21 days. Vaccination can help keep your child in school or in childcare.

You can check your child's vaccinations by looking at their personal child health record (Red Book) or by asking your GP. A list of what vaccinations your child needs is included with this letter.

Your child needs two MMR vaccines to be fully protected. The first MMR vaccine is offered when children turn one. The second when they are about 3 years and 4 months old. If your child has missed one or both vaccines they can catch up at any time. Adults who have missed MMR vaccinations can still be vaccinated – it is never too late.

**To arrange a vaccine please contact your GP practice.** Alternatively, if your child is under 5 years old, walk-in clinics are also available throughout Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. Details of the clinics are provided with this letter. Catch up clinics for older children and young people will be available in school and will be announced soon.

You can find more information about measles here:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)

You can find out more about the MMR vaccine here:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/)



Yours sincerely



**Vicky Head**

Director of Public Health, Bedford Borough Council

## Walk-in vaccination clinics: Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes

Residents of Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes can attend any of these clinics.

Bedford Borough		
Mondays	Queens Park Children's Centre, Marlborough Road, Bedford, MK40 4LE	20 May; 17 June; 15 July; 19 August (9:00 am to 12:00 noon)
Tuesdays	Pine Cones Children's Centre, Slade Walk, Bedford, MK41 7SA	21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20 August (9:00 am to 12:00 noon)
Fridays	Church Lane Community Centre, Goldington, Bedford, MK41 0PW	21 June, 19 July (9:00 am to 12:00 noon) 23 August (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)
Central Bedfordshire		
Mondays	Shefford Children's Centre, School Lane, Shefford, SG17 5XA	27 May, 24 June, 22 July (9:00 am to 12:00 noon)
Tuesdays	Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Amphill, MK45 2HX	28 May, 25 June, 23 July (9:00 am to 12:00 noon) 27 August (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)
Wednesdays	Sandy Children's Centre, Laburnum Road, Sandy, SG19 1HQ	29 May, 24 July, 28 August (9:00 am to 3:30 pm)
Thursdays	Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre, East Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EW	30 May, 25 July, 29 August (9:00 am to 12:00 noon)
Fridays	Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre, East Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EW	Friday 28 June (1:00 to 3:00 pm)
Luton		
Tuesdays	Bury Park Community Centre, 161 Dunstable Road, Luton, LU1 1BW	7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August (9:00 am to 12:00 noon)
Thursdays	Hockwell Ring Family Hub, Mayne Avenue, Luton, LU4 9LB	9 May, 6 June, 4 July, 8 August (1:00 to 3:30 pm)
Fridays	St Francis Church, Carteret Road, Luton, LU2 9JZ	10 May, 7 June, 5 July, 9 August (9:30 am to 12:00 noon)
Milton Keynes		
Wednesdays	The Rowans Family Centre, Moorfoot, Milton Keynes, MK11 2BD	15 May, 12 June, 10 July (1:00 to 4:00 pm)
Thursdays	Daisy Chain (The Lounge), Melrose Avenue, West Bletchley, MK3 6PS	16 May, 13 June, 11 July (9:00 am to 12:30 pm) 15 August (9:00 am to 3:30 pm)