

PHE London  
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To: General Practitioners in London

Dear colleagues

Rise in cases of measles and mumps across London

I am writing to alert you to increasing numbers of cases of measles and mumps in London. Since January 2019 there have been 538 notifications of measles and 697 notifications of mumps in London. These are clinical diagnoses but around 30% are also laboratory confirmed.

The majority of new cases are in young adults who have travelled to other parts of Europe on holiday, acquired the infection there and then transmitted to unvaccinated household members on their return. Please take every opportunity to promote MMR vaccination to this group.

If patients contact the surgery asking for an appointment for a rash with fever, please could you see them at the end of surgery to avoid transmission to other vulnerable contacts in the waiting area.

You may wish to check the immune status of your staff as there has been transmission in healthcare settings. Two doses of MMR are required to ensure staff are immune.

Please continue to report all suspected cases of measles and mumps to the health protection team who will be able to advise on the protection of exposed, vulnerable individuals.

Yours sincerely



Dr Deborah Turbitt

Deputy Director for Health Protection, PHE London