

MMR and measles outbreaks

The Health Protection Agency has asked us to alert you that over 3,000 measles outbreaks have occurred in France and more elsewhere in mainland Europe. Confirmed cases of measles have increased during the past month in the UK. The vast majority of cases have occurred in persons who are unimmunised and most cases are in older children attending secondary school, in students attending university and in adults.

There is considerable risk that your child may catch measles if they are not fully 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 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 greater 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.

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 will improve the level of protection.