ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Public Health and Communities Directorate**
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**www.rochdale.gov.uk**

Your Ref: MLSSP-02
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Emailed to:
All Headteachers for circulation to all parents

Dear Parent or Carer,

## Think MEASLES – Your consent

You may be aware, there are rapidly rising numbers of measles cases in Greater Manchester, and a national incident has been declared by UKHSA. As a result, MMR vaccination catch up is being stepped up in order to help prevent further spread of the virus. Vaccination is the best protection against measles.

**Measles is a serious illness, with one in five children who get the disease having to be admitted to hospital for treatment. It can spread very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools, so if you or your child have not had your MMR jab, it is vital you come forward.**

**There is no specific treatment for Measles and the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccination gives the best possible protection against illness.** Over 99% of those who have two doses of the MMR vaccine will be protected against measles and rubella. The vaccine also provides protection against mumps, which can be very painful.

School immunisation services are planned to visit schools to offer MMR catch up vaccination to partially vaccinated or unvaccinated children. This is to ensure as many children and young people are offered the vaccine as soon as possible. The MMR vaccine schedule is 2 doses of MMR, at least 4 weeks apart. Teams will arrange second doses for any children and young people who require this. **If you are unsure if your child has had both vaccinations, please refer to your children's 'red book' or call your GP.**

In order for your child to receive their vaccination in school, **your consent is required. You should have been emailed a link to a consent form by the school vaccination team. Please return your consent forms as soon as possible**. Young people are also able to consent themselves, where competent, please make them aware of this process

For further information please see the following links:

- Measles - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
- Visit our website: **www.rochdale.gov.uk/measles.**

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Kuiama Thompson
Director of Public Health & Communities