

Dear parent,

I am writing to advise you that we are urging parents to ensure your children have had all of their primary immunisations particularly the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine before you travel abroad.

This follows recent reported cases of measles in travellers returning from abroad including Europe, Africa, the Middle and the Far East.

If you are planning a holiday anywhere abroad and have not had your children vaccinated against measles please ensure that your children are protected with two doses of the MMR jab.

HPA figures show that up to the end of May there were 83 confirmed cases of measles in England and Wales - one was in the North East – and 14 of the 83 cases had a documented history of recent travel abroad.

This demonstrates the risk of measles to unvaccinated travellers and anyone planning to go abroad should therefore ensure that they are fully protected against measles before travelling.

Measles outbreaks are ongoing in this country and abroad creating more opportunities for exposure.

It's never too late for parents to get the MMR vaccine for your child - it provides the best possible protection against Measles, Mumps and Rubella. We are urging parents to get your children immunised with two doses.

You can contact your GP who will be able to provide advice on vaccination, or you can visit NHS Choices for more information:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Planners/vaccinations/Pages/Landing.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Dr Meng Khaw

Director of public health on behalf of NHS North of Tyne
working on behalf of Newcastle and North Tyneside PCTs and
Northumberland Care Trust