



## News Release

### **Local MMR vaccination plans to be developed in response to increase in measles cases**

A national catch-up programme to increase MMR vaccination uptake in children and teenagers is announced today (Thursday 25 April) by Public Health England, NHS England and the Department of Health. The aim of the programme is to prevent measles outbreaks by vaccinating as many unvaccinated and partially vaccinated 10-16 year olds as possible in time for the next school year.

New figures published today by Public Health England (PHE) show high numbers of confirmed measles cases in England in the first three months of 2013, reaching 587 by end of March, following a record annual high of almost 2,000 cases in 2012. Cases are distributed across England, with the highest totals in the North West and North East where there have been outbreaks of the disease.

In line with trends across the country, the number of cases of measles has continued to rise in London. During the first three months of 2013, 68 cases were confirmed following a total of 137 cases in 2012. (*See notes in editors for breakdown by local authority*).

Experts believe the rise in measles cases can be mostly attributed to the proportion of unprotected 10-16 year olds, who missed out on vaccination in the late 1990s and early 2000s when concern around the discredited link between autism and the vaccine was widespread. After many years of low vaccination uptake, measles became re-established in 2007.

The catch-up programme announced today sets out a national framework within which local teams in London, (made up of NHS England, PHE London and working alongside Directors of Public Health in Local Government), will produce tailored local plans to identify and give MMR to un-vaccinated and partially vaccinated 10-16 year olds through GP practices.

Dr Yvonne Doyle, PHE's regional director for London, said: "Measles is a potentially fatal but entirely preventable disease so it is disappointing that cases have recently increased in London. The catch-up programme set out today recommends an approach to specifically target those young people most at risk. Those who have not been vaccinated should seek at least one dose of MMR vaccination which will give them 95 per cent protection against measles. A second dose is then needed to provide almost complete protection.

"The only way to prevent measles outbreaks is to ensure good uptake of the MMR. When cases of measles are reported to Public Health England we take immediate action to ensure that vulnerable



h & Fulham	Month		Quarter		Year					
	Latest Month – March	Previous month – February	Latest quarter Jan – March 2013	Previous quarter Oct – Dec 2012	Year to date (up to March)		Previous year (up to March 2012)		Previous year (Total 2012)	
					No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
	<b>No – Confirmed cases</b>									
	<b>Rate - Crude Rate per 100,000</b>									
Haringey	2	0	5	2	5	1.96	4	1.57	7	2.74
Harrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.25	4	1.66
Havering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.42
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.36
Hounslow	0	1	1	0	1	0.39	3	1.18	9	3.53
Islington	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.97
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.63	3	1.90
Kingston upon Thames	0	1	1	0	1	0.62	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.66	4	1.31
Lewisham	0	0	2	0	2	0.72	0	0	3	1.08
Merton	1	0	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	3	0.50
Newham	0	1	1	1	1	0.32	0	0	1	0.32
Redbridge	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.71
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.53
Southwark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.69
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.09
Tower Hamlets	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.39	2	0.78
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1.54
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.65	4	1.30
Westminster	0	1	1	0	1	0.46	0	0	1	0.46

MMR coverage (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose) at age 5 by PCT for London

<b>London Pct Name</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Barking & Dagenham PCT	60	55	62	69	78
Barnet PCT	59	82	82	83	88
Bexley Care Trust PCT	51	58	60	79	85
Brent Teaching PCT	43	32	72	82	89
Bromley PCT	-	71	71	77	89
Camden PCT	-	51	58	61	70
City & Hackney Teaching PCT	-	37	49	65	71
Croydon PCT	64	71	77	75	73
Ealing PCT	67	63	74	80	84
Enfield PCT	45	62	73	68	77
Greenwich Teaching PCT	39	57	66	80	82
Hammersmith & Fulham PCT	69	51	59	69	73
Haringey Teaching PCT	-	38	83	78	83
Harrow PCT	66	79	68	78	90
Havering PCT	67	68	72	79	86
Hillingdon PCT	-	70	85	87	89
Hounslow PCT	-	53	68	68	76
Islington PCT	43	50	64	75	83
Kensington & Chelsea PCT	-	63	65	66	75
Kingston PCT	76	77	78	82	83
Lambeth PCT	-	63	73	75	76
Lewisham PCT	45	51	62	66	70
Newham PCT	42	80	75	77	77
Redbridge PCT	-	66	71	77	77
Richmond & Twickenham PCT	61	82	75	76	79
Southwark PCT	51	55	68	69	71
Sutton & Merton PCT	68	79	81	80	77
Tower Hamlets PCT	66	79	84	94	94
Waltham Forest PCT	49	72	80	81	82
Wandsworth PCT	-	71	78	87	80
Westminster PCT	-	81	88	88	84
<b>London PHEC</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>

\* Some PCTs were unable to provide data for 2007/08 due to issues with child health systems.

2. More information on the MMR catch-up programme will be available on the PHE website from Thursday 25 April: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/MMR-catch-up-programme-2013>. A table with laboratory confirmed cases of measles by region and age group in England is available from the press office under embargo.
3. For more information on measles and MMR, please visit: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Measles/measles/MMR> or <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

4. Public Health England is a new executive agency of the Department of Health that took up its full responsibilities on 1 April, 2013. PHE works with national and local government, industry and the NHS to protect and improve the nation's health and support healthier choices and will be addressing inequalities by focusing on removing barriers to good health. To find out more visit our website [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe), follow us on Twitter @PHE\_London and @PHE\_uk.

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