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| Protecting and improving the nation’s health | Public Health England South East  Civic Centre, Level 2  Tannery Lane  Ashford TN23 1PL |  | T 0344 2253861 (Option 1, Option 1)  F 01233 639747  www.gov.uk/phe |

Tuesday 27th March 2018.

Dear Colleagues,

**Measles in Kent**

You may be aware that there have been recent outbreaks of measles in Surrey, Liverpool, Leeds and the West Midlands. The PHE Health Protection Team in Kent has been notified of the first confirmed measles case in Kent since 2016. Whilst this may be an isolated case the source of infection is unclear and therefore healthcare staff are reminded to consider measles in any patient who presents with fever and rash. If measles is suspected please notify the case to PHE immediately, advise exclusion for 4 days from the onset of the rash and ask about any vulnerable contacts.

**General advice**

* All suspected measles should be notified asap, to PHE on Tel: **0344 225 3861** (option 1, option 1) out of hours **0844 967 0069**
* Please maximise every opportunity to ensure all patients are fully immunised with 2 MMRs
* Patients with possible measles (a rash and a fever) should be isolated from communal waiting areas to protect other patients – make sure reception staff are aware.
* All healthcare staff including receptionists should be fully protected against measles; vaccinate if uncertain.
* Suspected cases must be excluded from school, nursery or work for 4 days after the onset of rash.
* Consider using the information at these links to promote MMR and raise awareness of measles:
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-for-all-general-leaflet>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-poster>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-patient-leaflet-for-young-people>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/think-measles-poster-for-young-people>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-gps>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-schools>

**Clinical signs and symptoms of measles include:**

Early or **prodromal**:

* High **fever,** typically increases during the prodromal phase and peaks (>390C) around the rash onset
* **Coryzal** symptoms (**cough**, cold, or runny nose)
* Red and watery eyes or **conjunctivitis**
* **Koplik spots** (small red spots with bluish-white centre) on buccal mucosa may appear around the time of the rash, sometimes one day before, and last for 2-3 days after the rash appears.

Later symptoms:

* Characteristic red/brown blotchy **maculopapular (non-vesicular) rash** (appears 3-4 days after initial symptom onset). The typical rash is non-itchy, starts on the face and upper neck behind the ears, then spreads across the trunk and limbs eventually reaching the hands and feet.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/symptoms/>

Yours sincerely,



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