

Current measles situation in Birmingham – February 2024

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 **RESET**

 **RESHAPE**

 **RESTART**

Key messages for all

MMR vaccination provides best protection against measles

MMR vaccines that do not contain pork are available at all GP surgeries

Contact your GP surgery to catch up with MMR vaccinations at any age

Anyone with suspected measles should not attend a healthcare setting without calling ahead first

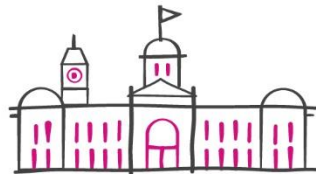
If in doubt, ensure that you report a potential case to the UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team

Unvaccinated close contacts of a measles case may be advised not to come to your setting for a number of days



Measles virus and MMR

- One of the most contagious viruses (more so than COVID, hepatitis, HIV)
- Measles is only confirmed via a test done through your GP or other healthcare setting
- Mainly airborne transmission
- 9/10 **unvaccinated** close contacts will get infected
- WHO MMR target is 95%. Lower uptake means a population is at risk of a measles outbreak

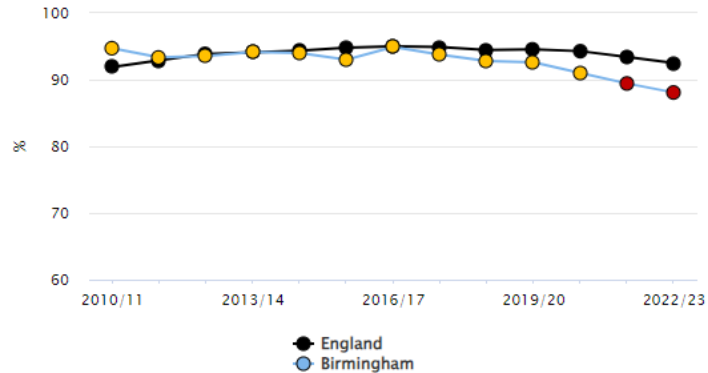


MMR uptake

- 2 doses of MMR give an individual protection against measles
- MMR 1 at 12 months, MMR2 at 40 months
- Birmingham uptake is 88% MMR1 at 5 years, Solihull is 94.6%
- England uptake (2021/2022) is below 90% for MMR1 and at 86% for MMR2 UKHSA

MMR vaccine schedule

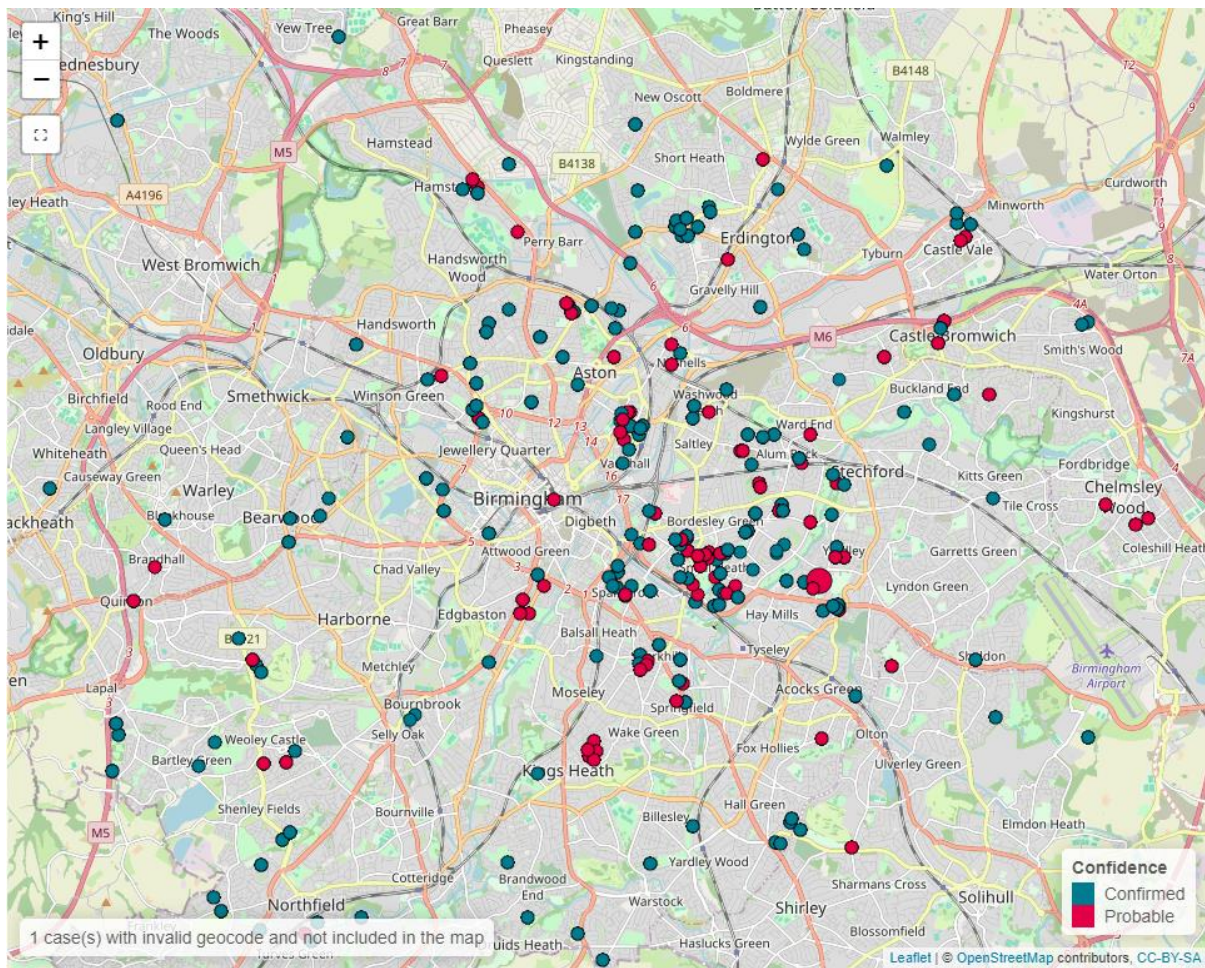
Child's age	Vaccine
1 year	MMR (1st dose)
3 years and 4 months	MMR (2nd dose)



Current situation

- Measles is circulating in Birmingham, Solihull and across the West Midlands (also nationally and internationally)
- There have been over 300 cases (w/c 29th Jan) of measles in West Midlands since October 2023
- Around half of the cases have required hospitalisation, majority of cases are unvaccinated
- Majority of cases are in children under the age of 10





- Cases in Birmingham, Solihull and across the West Midlands



What are the symptoms of measles?

- Cold-like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, sneezing and cough
- Red, sore watery eyes
- High temperature (fever) which may be above 39C
- A non-itchy, red-brown rash usually appears 3-5 days later (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body), spots may be raised and join to form blotchy patches – which may be harder to see on darker skin tones



What do I do if a child/student has suspected measles?

- If children have symptoms of measles, please tell them to stay at home or return home. **Please advise parents they should not bring their children with measles symptoms to the setting. Please advise students to not attend your setting with symptoms of measles.**
- Suspected measles may cause concern. Advice is available on the NHS website, UKHSA webpages, NHS 111 and from the person's GP. Please advise parents/students NOT to go to their GP practice or any other healthcare provider – instead, they should phone for advice and say it could be measles.



What do I do if a child/student has suspected measles?

- Staff are not public health professionals - UKHSA will support in the risk assessment and advise on actions that need to be taken
- If your setting needs any further support, UKHSA will work in partnership with the Birmingham City Council's Public Health team and with the local NHS.

**UKHSA West Midlands Health
Protection Team**

Call: 0344 225 3560 (option 9)

Email: wmmeaslescell@ukhsa.gov.uk



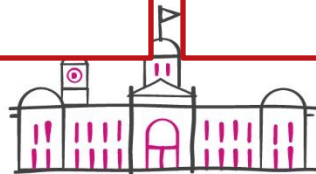
Key actions for

HEADTEACHERS

- Report suspected or confirmed measles to UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Take any actions recommended by UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Continue to promote uptake of MMR vaccine

GOVERNORS

- Support Headteachers to implement any recommended actions from UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Continue to promote uptake of MMR vaccine



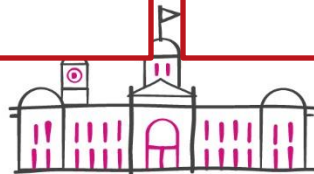
Key actions for

EARLY YEARS LEADERS

- Report suspected or confirmed measles to UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Take any actions recommended by UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Continue to promote uptake of MMR vaccine in the relevant age groups

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE LEADERS

- Report suspected or confirmed measles to UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Take any actions recommended by UKHSA West Midlands Health Protection Team
- Continue to promote uptake of MMR vaccine



Key messages for all

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Key Links and Contact Details

- [National measles guidelines January 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

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