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Links

www.hpa.org.uk
HPA website

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/mmr-vaccine.aspx>
NHS choices MMR information

Contact Us

Greater Manchester
Public Health England
Centre Health
Protection Team:
0844 225 0562 -Option 1
Fax: 0161 707 9686

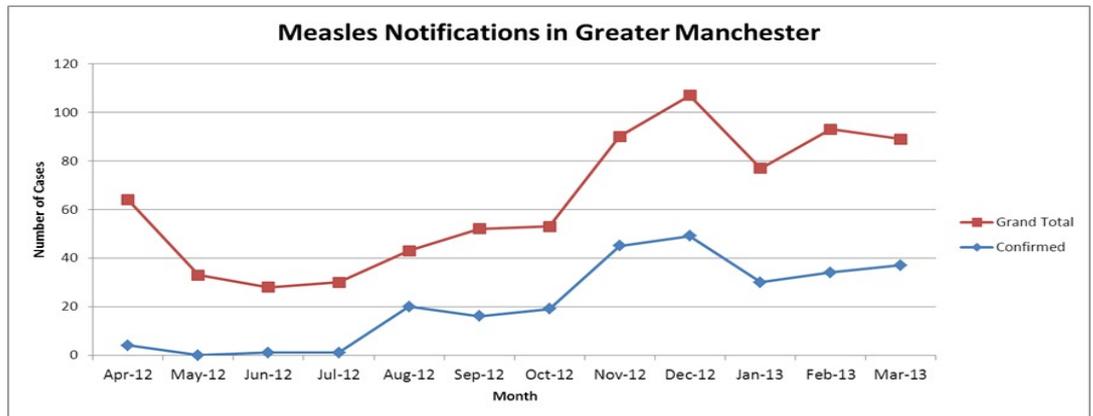
Virology Laboratory at
MRI: 0161 276 8853

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Current Situation

There have been 105 confirmed cases (and 295 notifications) since the start of 2013 in Greater Manchester. This compares to 164 cases (and 678 notifications) for all of 2012.

The majority of cases have been in Wigan and more recently in some schools in Salford. There are confirmed cases in all Local Authorities. Highest numbers are in unimmunised children aged 10-14, which reflects the national picture and the poor historic levels of MMR uptake in this group.



Actions for clinical staff

Prevention

1. Please ensure eligible children/young people are protected against measles with two doses of MMR. The first dose should continue to be given at the normal time 12 – 13 months. It is possible to bring the 2nd dose of MMR forward, up to 3 months after the 1st dose is administered.
2. Please ensure all health care staff are immune to measles, with evidence of immunity (either documentation of 2 doses of MMR or a positive antibody test)
3. Please advise that suspected cases are excluded from school, nursery or work for 4 days after the onset of rash.
4. Measles is a highly infectious disease. If you suspect measles in a patient, please ensure that they sit in a separate waiting room away from other patients, or alternatively, are seen at the end of clinic to minimize spread to other patients.

Testing

Please consider measles in children or adults presenting with the following: an illness characterised by all of the following: (1) maculopapular rash; (2) fever; and (3) cough, coryza or conjunctivitis. The rash is a fine red rash which typically starts in the hairline or behind the ears & spreads down across the body to cover the face, trunk & limbs.

Please take samples for measles PCR testing: urine sample and/or a throat swab [ideally in viral transport medium] but a dry swab is a reasonable alternative (NOT in charcoal transport medium -please use a plain sterile container such as a universal container used for urine samples). Please send these samples urgently to the Virology lab at MRI via your local lab and inform the MRI laboratory on 0161 276 8853. Measles PCR testing is performed on all weekdays; results are generally available within 24-48 hours of specimen receipt at MRI.

Notification

To allow prompt public health action, please notify all suspected cases to GM Public Health England Centre Health Protection team (0844 225 0562-Option 1) *as soon as possible*.

Exposure in a healthcare setting (GP practice)

Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) such as Human Normal Immunoglobulin (HNIG) or MMR may be needed for vulnerable contacts (see below) if they have been in the same room for more than 15 minutes with a probable case of measles i.e. a case with no MMR *and* recent (<2 weeks) contact with a known confirmed case of measles. **Vulnerable contacts include: infants under 9 months of age / immunocompromised children and adults / pregnant women.**

HNIG is available from Virology at the MRI laboratory (0161 276 8853). Advice is also available from GM PHEC Health Protection team (0844 225 0562-Option 1)