



Protecting and improving the nation's health

Schools, preschools and nurseries in
South Hams and Torbay

8th June 2016

Dear Head Teacher

Measles in Totnes

I am writing to let you know that there is a case of confirmed measles and several others suspected in students attending King Edward VI Community College in Totnes. There is a possibility that other members of the family and friends attending your school may have been exposed to the infection.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness spread through coughing and sneezing and close personal contact. Most people recover completely from measles, however, on rare occasions there can be serious complications.

The first stage of measles includes a runny nose, conjunctivitis (red eyes), a cough and an increasing fever that comes and goes. A rash appears on day 3 or 4 while the child is still feverish and miserable.

Anyone with suspected measles should be excluded from school or work until five days after the rash first appeared.

This is an opportunity to remind people that two doses of the MMR vaccine offer high protection against measles, provided the first dose is given after 12 months of age. Unless advised otherwise, parents should follow the recommended NHS vaccination schedule;

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/vaccination-schedule-age-checklist.aspx>

MMR is also beneficial if given within 72 hours of exposure to the virus.

If parents or carers do report that their children have signs or symptoms of measles, please ask them to contact their GP to seek medical advice; ask them to telephone the GP surgery before visiting.

It would also be helpful if you could ask for permission for you to pass on their details to the Health Protection Team (0300 303 8162).

Further information is available from NHS Choices:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Yours faithfully

Dr Sarah Harrison, Consultant in Health Protection