

More information on measles in Europe

Dear Colleague,

Since my letter dated 14th April we have received some more information from the Health Protection Agency about measles in Europe and so I am writing to you again with some updated advice.

The major measles outbreak is currently in France but there have also been large numbers of cases in other European countries such as Spain, Turkey and Bulgaria.

The following web site gives more information about travelling and measles:
<http://www.nathnac.org/pro/clinicalupdates/measlesglobal100311.htm>

Please note that we advise all children, whether they travelling or not, to be fully protected against measles by having the MMR vaccine. The current increase of cases in France and other European countries highlights the need for this.

In the box below is a summary message that can be passed on to schools and parents.

Individuals with queries about how this advice applies to them should contact their own GP.

Updated advice on need for protection against measles
6th May 2011

The Public Health Directorate is advising that children and adults planning a trip to France and the rest of Europe should be fully protected against measles.

MMR is safe and protects against measles.

Children and adults born after 1970 should have had two doses of MMR vaccine. Adults born before 1970 should discuss with their GP whether they are likely to be immune to measles and have vaccination with MMR if appropriate.

Vaccination with MMR is available from GP surgeries.

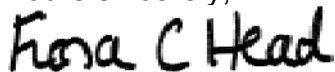
If you are unsure about whether you are fully protected against measles or not please contact your GP.

More information about measles can be found at
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

For advice on preventing measles and to notify possible cases please contact Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Health Protection Unit on 01462 705 300.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Fiona Head
Assistant Director Public Health Medicine
NHS Bedfordshire