Dear Colleagues,

As you will know, due to [rising measles cases in the West Midlands and London](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.cmail20.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-vuutujk-juijbuhdy-k%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cclaire.deeley%40nhs.net%7Ce48749f145414bb2d42e08dc2367c4de%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638424175818227987%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z%2BLuLeXGrvW%2B%2B64K20Ju5hPzDVlMweeK0S1Szerm2EI%3D&reserved=0), NHS England has launched a [catch-up campaign to increase MMR vaccination coverage, particularly in low uptake areas](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.cmail20.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-vuutujk-juijbuhdy-u%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cclaire.deeley%40nhs.net%7Ce48749f145414bb2d42e08dc2367c4de%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638424175818233858%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kBrG3t0kWbkmKQGcKc5X46nl7eqapnKS84yPcqhuYAI%3D&reserved=0).

From 5 February to March 2024, national MMR call and recall reminders will be sent to unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals aged 6-11 years across England, and 6-25 years in specific regions. These reminders will prompt patients to check their MMR immunisation status and, if vaccination is required, to contact general practice and in some areas local school age immunisation providers for vaccination. Please ensure your reception staff are aware of the national campaign as they are likely to see an increase in calls and requests for appointments.

The public is being advised to check their or their child's vaccination status. This can be via the Red Book or the NHS app (or their GP practice). To support this, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has released [easy-read materials on measles symptoms and actions](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.cmail20.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-vuutujk-juijbuhdy-o%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cclaire.deeley%40nhs.net%7Ce48749f145414bb2d42e08dc2367c4de%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638424175818239229%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cA5N0P7ZeA70kRuuMfd5w8lrhyZ1KWzkCG5TKCohEyw%3D&reserved=0) and a [slide set for primary care](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.cmail20.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-vuutujk-juijbuhdy-b%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cclaire.deeley%40nhs.net%7Ce48749f145414bb2d42e08dc2367c4de%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638424175818244877%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uUoFxOoxIHDzv5HpTrRk9mfSBXxuktbay7EefiRQlY4%3D&reserved=0) (which we have attached). [MMR materials can be downloaded and ordered for free on the health publications website](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprimarycarebulletin.cmail20.com%2Ft%2Fd-l-vuutujk-juijbuhdy-n%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cclaire.deeley%40nhs.net%7Ce48749f145414bb2d42e08dc2367c4de%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638424175818250487%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gd0jkwn4QHz8oq%2BpI4XeNln2612KT7Nfc%2F47iHZbgks%3D&reserved=0).

There is localised information about MMR vaccinations for the public, which includes frequently asked questions, on the [NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board website.](https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/mmr/)

**Important information for primary care:**

**Make Every Contact Count (MECC)** - check immunisation history of every patient, especially for children, new registrations, new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

**Offer/recommend the MMR vaccine if unvaccinated:**

* + children should receive 2 doses of MMR vaccine routinely at age 12 months and 3 years and 4 months
  + older children and adults who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated should also be offered vaccination. There is no upper age limit – 2 doses should be given at least 4 weeks apart. It is safe to receive an extra MMR dose
  + individuals born before 1970 are likely to have had natural infection with measles, mumps and rubella and are unlikely to be susceptible. MMR vaccine should be offered to such individuals on request or if they are considered to be at high risk of exposure.

**Staff involved in direct patient care** (including reception staff / anyone who has contact with patients) should have documented evidence of 2 doses of the MMR vaccine or have positive antibody tests for measles and rubella, in keeping with [national guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7abc09e5274a319e77a5b9/Green-Book-Chapter-12.pdf). This is important to protect themselves, their families and prevent transmission of measles in health care settings.

**Order plenty of stock** - there are 2 MMR vaccines currently available for use in the NHS: Priorix and MMRVaxPro. Practices who serve communities who prefer porcine gelatine free products should order Priorix preferentially via Immform.

**Think Measles** – use the attached poster and slide deck to help with diagnosing and risk assessments in case of a measles case at your practice.

Thank you for your ongoing and continued support.

Kind regards,

*Dr Dave Briggs, Medical Director at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB*