

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Local GP Encourages MMR Vaccine Uptake

Parents across the Black Country and West Birmingham are being urged to make sure children are up to date with their measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) jab.

Measles is a highly infectious disease which can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia and inflammation of the brain. It also damages and suppresses the whole immune system, meaning children can be left much more susceptible to catching other illnesses.

All children are invited for their first MMR vaccine on the NHS when they turn one. The second dose is given when they reach three years and four –months of age.

However, according to the UK Health Security Agency there has been a significant drop in the number of children getting vaccinated against MMR since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than one in 10 children under the age of five now not fully protected from measles.

Dr Mohit Mandiratta, local GP in Dudley and a clinical lead for Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “The MMR vaccine offers the best protection from measles, mumps and rubella, which is why we’re calling on parents and carers to make sure their children are up to date with their two doses.

“Measles is highly contagious, so even a small decline in MMR vaccine uptake can lead to a significant rise in cases. That’s why it’s absolutely vital that we ensure all children have the maximum protection against these serious illnesses.

“If your child has missed a vaccination, please contact your GP practice to book an appointment as soon as you can. It’s never too late to catch-up – primary care is open and here for you.”

Parents who are unsure if their child is up to date with all their routine vaccinations should check their child’s Red Book (personal child health record) or contact their GP practice.

Adults and older children can also be vaccinated at any age if they have not been fully vaccinated before.

To find out more about the MMR vaccine, please visit the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk) for more information.



ENDS

Notes to editors:

- Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was established on 1 April 2021 following the merger of Dudley, Sandwell & West Birmingham, Walsall and Wolverhampton CCGs
- The CCG decides how to spend the NHS budget on the majority of health services, including planned hospital care, urgent and emergency care, community health services, and mental health and learning disability services, as well as delegated responsibility for commissioning general practice services
- We serve a local population of 1.5 million and our vision is for a healthier place with healthier people and healthier futures
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