

Increasing immunisation coverage for children and young people.

Did you know?

- [Vaccination](#) is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding disease – it currently prevents 2-3 million deaths a year, and a further 1.5 million could be avoided if global coverage of vaccinations improved
- [Vaccine hesitancy](#) is one of the World Health Organisation's top ten threats to global health in 2019. This is the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines
- Measles outbreaks continue to spread rapidly around the world, according to the latest preliminary reports provided to the [World Health Organisation](#), with millions of people globally at risk of the disease
- In 2018 there were nearly a thousand confirmed measles cases in England. The majority of cases have been in people who are not vaccinated, especially young people aged 15 and over who missed out on MMR vaccination when they were younger. [Vaccine Knowledge Project](#).



Key messages to share with parents -

- It's best to have vaccines on time, but you can still catch up on most vaccines if you miss them
- Measles is almost entirely preventable with two doses of measles vaccine, a safe and highly effective vaccine. High rates of vaccination coverage – 95% nationally and within communities – are needed to ensure that measles is unable to spread
- Students starting college or university you should make sure they have had:
 - ✓ The [MenACWY vaccine](#) - which protects against serious infections like meningitis. For people up to 25 years
 - ✓ 2 doses of the [MMR vaccine](#) - as there are outbreaks of mumps and measles at universities.
- Flu is a very common and highly infectious disease caused by a virus. It can be very dangerous especially for people in risk groups
- Each year there are different strains of flu around so a vaccine is offered annually to children over the age of two and all primary school aged children. Babies over 6 months, children and adults may also be offered the flu vaccine if they are at risk from the complication of flu.

Resources-

- [Family Assist](#) - Access to a wide range of resources, local and national information, including information about immunisation
- [Measles: Don't let your child catch it - poster](#)
- [Measles: Don't let your child catch it flyer \(for schools\)](#)
- NHS Choices. [Vaccinations and when to have them](#)
- NHS (2018). [MMR vaccination- It's not just for children](#)
- Public Health England. (2019). [Childhood Immunisation Programme Factsheet.](#)
- Public Health England. (2019). [Guide to immunisations for babies up to 13 months of age](#)
- Public Health England. (2019). [Pre-school vaccinations from 2 - 5-years](#)
- [Thinking of getting pregnant?](#) Advice to women to check MMR status before getting pregnant

References to support evidenced based practice-

- NHS Digital. [Vaccine coverage statistics 2017-18](#). Data is presented at upper tier local authority level and includes a visualisation tool
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. (2009). [Immunisation: reducing differences in the uptake in under 19s](#)
- [Vaccine Knowledge Group](#): Meets the World Health Organisation criteria for providing good quality information about vaccine safety issues. Content is aimed at the general public and is also suitable for healthcare professionals. Good video explaining herd immunity
- WHO (2019). [Improving vaccine demand and reducing hesitancy](#)



Learning and development -

- E-Learning for Healthcare Practitioners: <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/login>
 - Healthy Child Programme: The Basics – Immunisation
 - Immunisation: 1. Communication with patients, parents and carers
2. Immunology
- NHS vaccination series. Discusses herd immunity and concerns about the side effects of immunisation. [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) .