



MMR and Polio catch-up vaccinations for your child (aged 4 to 11)

Dear Parent or Guardian

The NHS is inviting children aged 4 to 11 years in your borough, to catch-up with their MMR or polio vaccinations if they are not up to date with their childhood vaccination schedule.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes.

Mumps is a viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes or close contact with someone who already has the infection.

Rubella is a viral illness, often called German measles, that is now rare in the UK thanks to the success of the MMR vaccine. It is spread in a similar way to mumps and measles. If pregnant women develop Rubella it can be very serious for their unborn baby.

Polio is an infection caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system – it can cause permanent paralysis of muscles.

In February 2022, we found a type 2 polio virus in sewage samples taken from north London. This suggests that the virus has been spreading between people. The polio virus found in London should not pose any risk to those who are fully vaccinated. **However, whilst it is spreading, there is a small chance that those who have not been fully vaccinated, or those who cannot respond well to vaccines, could be at risk of catching polio.**

The good news is that we have picked this virus up early and we want to act now to protect as many children as possible. **The best way to protect your child is to make sure they are fully up to date with their childhood vaccinations.**

The vaccines to protect against these diseases have been safely used in millions of children and will give them a high level of protection from these diseases.

You can find more information about the London wide MMR and polio catch-up campaign at:
<https://www.transformationpartnersinhealthandcare.nhs.uk/london-polio-mmr/frequently-asked-questions/>

Yours faithfully

NHS London Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning

If you would like to discuss your child's vaccinations and/or book an appointment please see overleaf.



Croydon Health Services
NHS Trust

MMR and Polio Catch-up Vaccination
Team

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