



Protecting and improving the nation's health

GPs in South Hams and Torbay

3rd June 2016

Dear Colleague,

Measles at King Edward VI Community College, Totnes

A case of measles has been confirmed in a 15 year old student who attends King Edward VI Community College, Totnes (KEVICC).

Measles is a notifiable disease and suspected cases should be reported promptly to the health protection team preferably by telephone (0300 303 8162). We can send an oral fluid testing kit to confirm the diagnosis and advise on vulnerable contacts.

The suspected case will usually be significantly unwell with the following features: fever (>38⁰ C) and characteristic rash following a prodrome including one or more of the following: conjunctivitis, cough, coryza (runny nose). Please check for a history of MMR immunisation, travel out of the area or contact with a known/suspected case.

The infectious period is about four days before the onset of the rash until four days afterwards. Measles cases should not attend the surgery when other patients are present to avoid spread. Ideally they should be seen at home or at the end of surgery. This is an opportunity to check that members of staff have had two doses of MMR vaccine or have evidence of immunity.

We have provided information to the school and in particular advise that people should be up to date with MMR immunisation.

I realise that your patients may have chosen not to be immunised, however some people do change their minds when measles is known to be circulating. Advice about MMR is found in the "Green Book": <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sarah Harrison
Consultant in Health Protection