



Infection report / Immunisation

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Laboratory confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella, England: July to September 2015

Measles, mumps and rubella are notifiable diseases and healthcare professionals suspecting a case are legally required to inform the authorities. Oral fluid testing is offered to all notified cases to confirm the diagnosis. This is part of the enhanced surveillance for these vaccine preventable diseases. Recent infection is confirmed by measuring the presence of IgM antibodies or detecting viral RNA (by PCR) in the samples.

Data presented here are for the third quarter of 2015 (i.e. July to September). Cases include those confirmed by oral fluid testing (IgM antibody tests and/or PCR) at the National Reference Laboratory, Colindale and national routine laboratory reports (mumps infections only) (table 1). Analyses are by date of onset and regional breakdown figures relate to Government Office Regions.

Quarterly figures from 2013 for cases confirmed by oral fluid antibody detection only and annual total numbers of confirmed cases by region and age are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-confirmed-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mumps-confirmed-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rubella-confirmed-cases>

Table 1. Total laboratory confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella, and oral fluid IgM antibody tests in notified cases: weeks 27-39/2015

<u>Notified and investigated cases</u>		<u>Oral fluid testing</u>					<u>Confirmed cases</u>	
<u>Infecting virus</u>	<u>Cases reported to Health Protection Teams in England*</u>	<u>Number Tested</u>	<u>% of reported cases tested</u>	<u>Total Positive</u>	<u>Recently Vaccinated</u>	<u>Confirmed infections</u>	<u>Other samples</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	351	225	64%	25	12	13	2	15
Mumps	1389	849	61%	68	4	64	48	112
Rubella	111	70	63%	2	2	0	0	0

*This represents the number of infections reported as possible cases and investigated by individual PHE centres in England

Measles

In England, fifteen new measles infections with symptoms onset dates between July and September 2015 were confirmed by the national reference laboratory compared to 33 cases in the second quarter of 2015 [1].

Thirteen of the newly diagnosed cases were from London: five were part of an on-going genotype B3 outbreak in North London that began in May 2015; another five were part of the same family recently returning from Somalia (genotype B3, but different strain). Of the remaining three London cases and two non-London cases, three were associated with recent travel to India (unable to genotype), France (unable to genotype) and Spain (genotype B3, a third strain) and two had no identified epidemiological links but could be linked by molecular sequencing to either the North London or to the Somalian cluster. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have not reported measles cases this quarter.

The majority (8/15, 53%) of measles cases this quarter were in children and adolescents: 2 (13%) aged 1 to 4 years; 2 (13%) aged 10 to 14 years; 4 (26%) aged 15 to 18 years. The remaining 7 cases (47%) were adults aged 21 to 29 years. None of the cases this quarter reported receiving any measles-containing vaccine.

Mumps

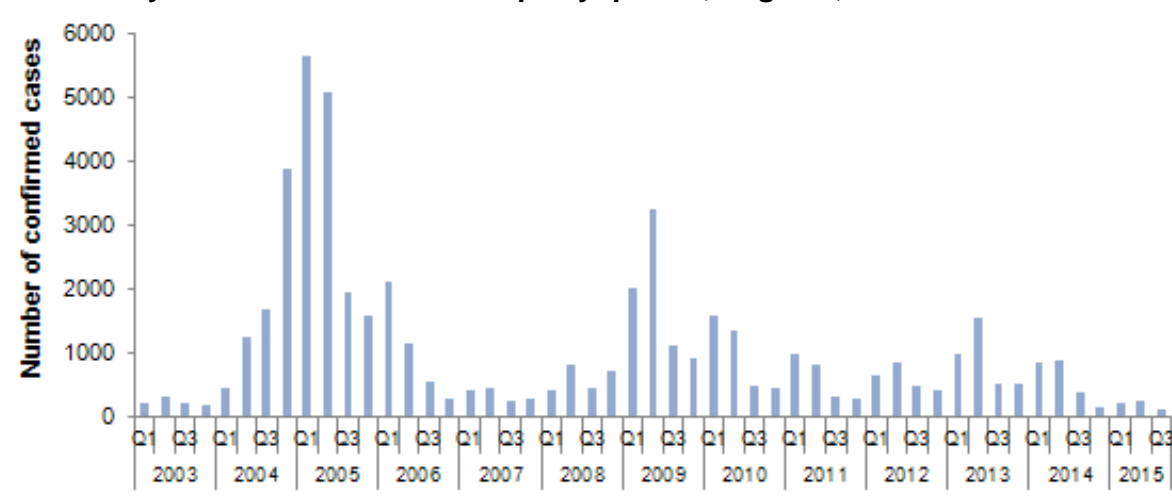
There were 112 laboratory confirmed mumps infections in England with onset in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 251 in the previous quarter (figure) [1]. Additionally, three new mumps infections were confirmed in oral fluid samples from Wales.

The number of mumps infections for the first 9 months of this year were lower than the same period in each year since 2004 and similar to those in 2003 (figure). Cases continued to be identified predominantly in young adults between 20 and 35 years of age (51/112 46%, table 2). Over 30% of all cases this quarter reported receiving at least one dose of MMR vaccination in childhood. Mumps cases were reported in all regions of England although around half of all cases were reported in the North East and London (table 2).

Table 2. Laboratory confirmed cases of mumps by age group and region, England: weeks 27-39/2015

Region	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	Total
North East	–	–	–	5	9	4	13	31
North West	–	–	2	3	2	1	4	12
Yorkshire & Humber	–	–	2	–	1	3	4	10
East Midlands	–	–	–	1	–	1	4	6
West Midlands	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	3
East of England	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	5
London	–	1	2	2	3	3	15	26
South East	–	–	–	–	1	–	6	7
South West	–	–	–	5	9	4	13	31
Total	0	1	8	14	17	13	59	112

Laboratory confirmed cases of mumps by quarter, England, 2003-2015



Rubella

A late confirmation of a case of rubella with onset in April 2015 was the only reported case in the period between July and September 2015 [1]. This case was in an older adult and was not known to be linked to travel.

Reference

1. PHE (August 2015). '[Laboratory confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella, England: April to June 2015](#)', *HPR* 9(30): immunisation.