



## News Release

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### **Latest measles cases published as part of national catch-up programme**

The first monthly confirmed case data for Cumbria & Lancashire is published today, as part of the national MMR catch –up programme. The figures show a further 8 cases of the preventable infectious disease, on top of 65 cases from January to March this year.

In England there were 288 cases in April, bringing the total number so far in 2013 to 962. This continues the trend seen since early 2012 with monthly totals around the highest recorded levels seen since 1994. The regions most affected continue to be the North West and North East where there have been outbreaks of the infection.

Although there were only 8 cases in Lancashire in April, the longer term trend is one of increasing cases. Since the beginning of 2013 up to the end of April, 73 cases were confirmed in Cumbria & Lancashire. There has only been 1 confirmed case in Cumbria. This follows an overall total of 128 cases in 2012. (*See notes in editors for breakdown by local authority*).

The national catch-up programme to increase MMR vaccination uptake in children and teenagers who are unvaccinated has so far resulted in more than 95 per cent of GP practices across England ordering additional doses of the vaccine – more than 200,000 extra in total.

The catch-up programme, run by Public Health England, NHS England, the Department of Health and local authorities, aims to prevent measles outbreaks by giving MMR to as many unvaccinated and partially vaccinated 10-16 year olds as possible.

This age group are most at risk of measles due to the fall in coverage of MMR that occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000s when concern around the discredited link between autism and the vaccine was widespread.

During this period, vaccination uptake fell to as low as 80 per cent in 2005, with lower rates in some parts of the country. Today MMR coverage among five year olds in England is at its highest recorded levels, with 94 per cent receiving one dose and 90 per cent receiving two doses.

Dr Jane Rossini, PHE Cumbria & Lancashire Centre Director, said: “Our ambition is to vaccinate 95 per cent of 10-16 year olds in time for the next school year. Local public health teams have been

working hard to encourage uptake with children and teenagers Cumbria & Lancashire. The message to parents who think their child may not be fully immunised is to check today and book an appointment with your GP. The vaccine is there ready to be used and could save your child's life. Measles is a serious illness and can lead to serious complications, including hospitalisation in more than one in five cases among teens this year.

"We are getting regular feedback from the local NHS teams about what is happening on the ground and are encouraged by the very high levels of involvement by GP practices across Cumbria & Lancashire. We will shortly be getting results from a new monitoring system that will tell us the number of vaccines given to children."

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

**Table 1: Confirmed cases of measles by month and year with a comparison to the previous years by Local Authority for Cumbria and Lancashire**

	Number by Month				Year					
	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Year to date (up to 30 <sup>th</sup> April)		Previous year (2012 up to 30 <sup>th</sup> April)		Previous year – total 2012	
					No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
<b>Cumbria &amp; Lancashire</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>6.53</b>
Allerdale	0	0	0	1	1	3.2	0	0	0	0
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	1	1	2.1	0	0	6	4.1
Blackpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7.0
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carlisle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	16.7
Chorley	0	0	2	0	2	5.7	0	0	3	2.8
Copeland	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8.5	2	2.8
Eden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	19.0
Fylde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.9

**Rate** – Cases per 100,000 person years

**No** – Number of confirmed cases

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	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Year to date (up to 30 <sup>th</sup> April)		Previous year (2012 up to 30 <sup>th</sup> April)		Previous year – total 2012	
					No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
Hyndburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	0	2	25	25	52	114.8	0	0	39	28.3
Pendle	3	0	0	0	3	10.2	0	0	1	1.1
Preston	2	0	0	0	2	4.3	1	2.2	14	10.0
Ribble Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7.0
Rossendale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Lakeland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Ribble	0	0	0	1	1	2.8	0	0	4	3.7
West Lancashire	1	4	0	3	8	22.0	2	5.5	13	11.8
Wyre	2	0	1	0	3	8.5	0	0	1	0.9

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1. The number of vaccinations ordered cannot be broken down to a regional / local level.
2. The number of extra doses of the vaccine being ordered by GPs across England comes from ImmForm, the vaccine ordering website. It details the number of orders for MMR which have been taken since the catch-up programme was announced, minus the number that would have been ordered for the routine programme.
3. The catch-up programme sets out a national framework within which local teams – led by NHS England Area Teams, working alongside Directors of Public Health in Local Government, and supported by PHE Centres – are producing tailored plans to identify and give MMR to unvaccinated and partially vaccinated 10-16 year olds through GPs and/or school programmes. Local intelligence may reveal the need to expand the focus of the catch-up activity beyond the 10-16 year old age groups and where this is recognised, further local action will be taken.
4. Key resources for healthcare professionals involved in the MMR catch up programme are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/MMR-catch-up-programme-2013>.
5. A table of confirmed cases of Measles, Mumps and Rubella 1996-2012 is available from: [http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1195733833790](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733833790)

6. For more information on measles and MMR, visit:  
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Measles/> or  
<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Measles/Pages/Introduction.aspx>
7. A Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/getvaccinatedEngland](http://www.facebook.com/getvaccinatedEngland) has also been set up for parents with any questions about the MMR vaccine we are using #getthemmr with partners on Twitter.
8. Public Health England is a new executive agency of the Department of Health that took up its full responsibilities on 1 April, 2013. PHE works with national and local government, industry and the NHS to protect and improve the nation's health and support healthier choices and will be addressing inequalities by focusing on removing barriers to good health. To find out more visit our website [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe), follow us on Twitter @PHE\_uk.

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