



Infection report / Immunisation

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Laboratory confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella, England: April to June 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 second quarter of 2015 (ie April to June). Cases include those confirmed by oral fluid testing (IgM antibody tests and/or PCR) at the Virus Reference Department, 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 14-26/2015

<u>Notified and investigated cases</u>		<u>Oral fluid testing</u>					<u>Confirmed cases</u>	
Infecting virus	Cases reported to Health Protection Teams in England*	Number Tested	% of reported cases tested	<i>Total Positive</i>	<i>Recently Vaccinated</i>	<u>Confirmed infections</u>	<u>Other samples</u>	Total
Mumps	1769	1083	61%	191	0	191	60	251
Rubella	159	110	69%	0	0	0	0	0

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

Measles

Thirty-three measles infections were confirmed in the National Reference Laboratory in England with onset dates between April and June 2015, compared to only 20 cases in the first quarter of 2015 [1].

The measles cases in the period were reported from four regions in England with London identifying half the new notifications. No cases so far this year have been reported from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

All of the new infections were associated with importations. Two clusters of cases in London (14 cases) and South West (nine cases) were linked to Somalia (genotype B3) and Sri Lanka (genotype B3), respectively. Six sporadic cases were imported from Afghanistan (B3), Germany (not typed), India (D8), Indonesia (not typed), Pakistan (B3) and Poland (D8). Measles virus RNA was detected and sequences genotyped from 23 of the 33 cases this quarter.

The majority (23/33, 70%) of the measles cases this quarter were in children and adolescents: six (18%) under-1s, six (18%) aged 1-4 years; six (18%) aged 5-9 years, four (12%) aged 10-14 years; and one (3%) in the 15-18 years age range. The remaining 10 cases (30%) were adults aged 20 to 38 years. Three of the remaining cases this quarter reported receiving at least one dose of a measles-containing vaccine; the remaining cases were unvaccinated.

Mumps

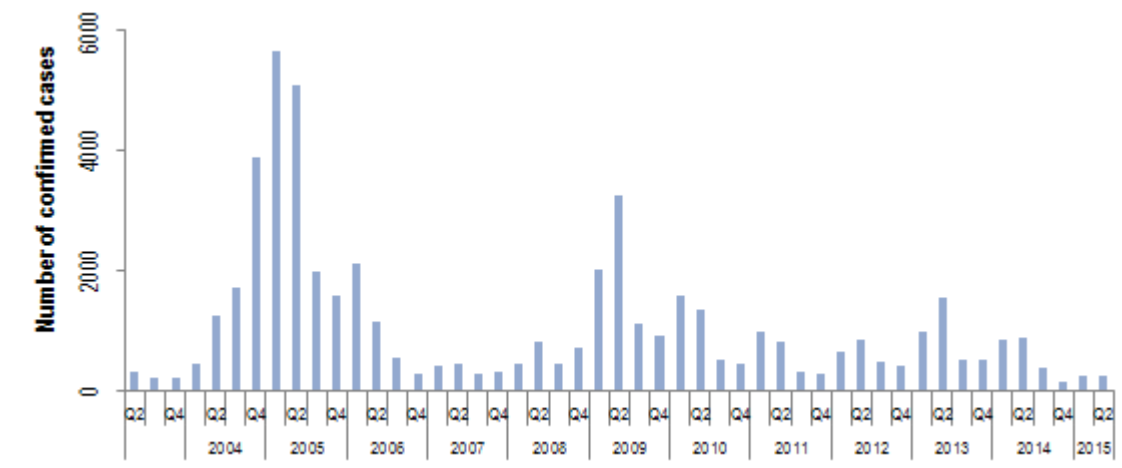
There were 251 laboratory confirmed cases of mumps in England with an onset date in the second quarter of 2015 compared to 227 in the previous quarter (see figure) [1]. Additionally, two new mumps infections were confirmed in oral fluid samples from Wales.

Cases continue to be identified predominantly in young adults between 20 and 33 years of age (133/251 57%, table 2). Over 40% of all cases this quarter have reported receiving at least one dose of MMR vaccination in childhood, suggesting that some waning immunity may be contributing to transmission. Mumps cases were reported in all regions of England although around a third of all cases were reported in the North East (table 2).

Table 2. Laboratory confirmed cases of mumps by age group and region, England: weeks 14-26/2015

Region	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	Total
North East	0	0	1	2	11	32	36	82
North West	0	1	0	5	5	6	13	30
Yorkshire & Humber	0	1	4	3	9	4	12	33
East Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6
West Midlands	0	1	1	2	3	1	3	11
East of England	0	2	1	0	0	1	11	15
London	0	1	1	1	0	6	23	32
South East	0	2	0	0	3	5	15	25
South West	0	1	1	2	5	3	5	17
Total	0	9	9	15	36	63	119	251

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



Rubella

No new cases of rubella were confirmed the period April-June 2015, compared to four in the previous three months [1].

References

1. PHE (May 2015). "[Laboratory confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella, England: January to March 2015](#)", *HPR* 9(18): immunisation.