



Measles - Information for asylum seeker accommodation staff

This action card is to be used when a medical professional has diagnosed a confirmed or suspected case of measles among residents or staff at an asylum seeker accommodation setting

What is measles?

- measles is a viral infection which is most common in children aged between 1 and 4 who have not been vaccinated against measles, but it can occur in people of any age
- early **signs and symptoms** of measles include: a high temperature (which may reach 40°C); cough; runny or blocked nose; sneezing; red, sore, watery eyes ([conjunctivitis](#))
- someone with measles will then develop a **rash** made up of large, flat blotches, which often flow into one another
- measles is **very infectious** and can spread very easily either through the air (for example when someone with measles coughs or sneezes) or if someone touches an object that someone with measles has coughed or sneezed on
- someone who has measles can pass it on to other people (is infectious) 4 days before their rash appears until 4 days after they get their rash
- a measles diagnosis **must** be made by a healthcare professional
- urgent action is needed to reduce the risk of a significant outbreak in a setting

What do you need to do?

- **URGENTLY** inform your UKHSA health protection team (HPT) if a healthcare professional diagnoses someone with measles in your setting
- help the HPT to identify people who are most at risk from measles: those with a weakened immune system; pregnant women; children aged under 1 year; and those who are not fully vaccinated
- support resident cases to isolate in their room and ensure staff with measles do not attend work during their infectious period, following the advice of the HPT
- support residents who are isolating by providing meals and other essentials in their room
- provide translated information to residents who are isolating on what they should do, including opening their windows where possible, and provide facilities to allow them to clean their room
- undertake regular welfare checks on residents who are isolating, and ensure they have access to a phone in case they need help
- advise staff / residents to check their immunisation history and encourage them to have the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination

Contacting your HPT with questions, concerns or new cases

Call your HPT (UKHSA) as soon as you suspect measles. The HPT will need to do a risk assessment and determine what actions are needed. Follow the actions as listed in the [outbreak management plan for asylum seeker settings](#)

HPT to call: on

If you have previously spoken to the HPT about this, quote the reference number they gave you. If a resident is unwell, contact 111 (non-emergency) or on-site clinical team; or 999 if an emergency.