

To:
General Practitioners
School Health Advisors
Health Visitors
Taunton Deane area

Dear Colleague

Measles

Further to our letter of 2 July 2009 we are writing to inform you that there has now been a confirmed case and a second strongly suspected case of measles in children who attend Queens College, Taunton and another strongly suspected case in a child who attends Bishop Henderson Primary School, Taunton. This brings to 5 the number of confirmed or probable cases seen over the past week and may be suggestive of community transmission of measles in the Taunton area.

We have liaised with the two schools detailed above who will send out letters and information leaflets to all parents today. The letter advises parents to ensure their children are up to date with their MMR vaccinations and also to consult their GPs if children are showing symptoms suggestive of measles. Castle School and Trull CE Primary School also sent letters to parents at the end of last week when a confirmed and a probable case were first identified in those schools.

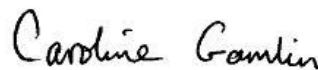
If you see any children with symptoms suggestive of measles, please discuss cases with the local Health Protection Unit to obtain a salivary swab for confirmation of diagnosis and to consider any action for close contacts that may be particularly at risk. This includes those who are immunosuppressed, pregnant women and infants under the age of 12 months.

Thank you very much for your help in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Dr K Kumaran in black ink.

Dr K Kumaran
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control

Handwritten signature of Dr. Caroline Gamlin in black ink.

Dr. Caroline Gamlin
Joint Director of Public Health
NHS Somerset and Somerset
County Council