



Dear Parent

Special Measle, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination session

Measles is a serious illness – it's highly contagious and can lead to complications such as ear infections, pneumonia, and inflammation of the brain which require hospitalisation and on rare occasions can lead to long term disability or death.

There are a high number of cases in Birmingham and given the close links between Birmingham and Shropshire there is a possibility we will have outbreaks in Shropshire schools soon too.

As well as the risk of serious illness, a measles outbreak in school would be highly disruptive to education, with unvaccinated contacts of any cases required to stay off school for up to 21 days. This also has an impact on parents and their work.

For this reason, the School Aged Immunisation Service are holding an MMR vaccination clinic (booked appointments only) on the **morning of Saturday 27th April 2024** at **Cambrian Surgery, Thomas Savin Rd, Oswestry SY11 1GA** to offer the MMR vaccine to our pupils, siblings and parents, with priority for our pupils who have not had any doses yet at all.

If you are unsure if your child is up to date with all their routine vaccinations you should check your child's Red Book (personal child health record) in the first instance. If you are still not sure, you can contact your GP practice to check.

If you would like your child, siblings or indeed yourself to have the vaccination please contact the School Aged Immunisation Service on **01743 730028** or email shropcom.immunisationteam@nhs.net to book an appointment. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

MMR Vaccination

The MMR vaccine is highly effective at preventing illness – not only measles but mumps and rubella too.

It is available in a form that doesn't contain pork for those who have dietary or religious reasons for avoiding pork products. **Please let the immunisation team know if you would like this choice of vaccine for your child.**

The MMR vaccine is very safe. Most side effects are mild and do not last long, such as:

- the area where the needle goes in looking red, swollen and feeling sore for 2 to 3 days
- around 7 to 11 days after the injection, babies or young children may feel a bit unwell or develop a high temperature for about 2 or 3 days

Some children might also cry and be upset immediately after the injection. This is normal and they should feel better after a cuddle.

It's important to remember that the possible complications of infectious conditions, such as measles, mumps and rubella, are much more serious. More information is provided here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

