



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Health Service Executive
Department of Public Health
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9th February 2010

To: All parents of pupils at Newpark Comprehensive School, Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Re Measles in a student in the senior cycle

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have been notified of a case of measles in a senior cycle student at your school

Measles is a very contagious disease. Almost all non immune children will contract measles if exposed to the measles virus.

Young people develop immunity to measles by catching measles or by receiving two doses of MMR vaccine. Those who catch measles are at risk of developing complications such as ear infection (1 in 20), pneumonia (1 in 25), diarrhoea (1 in 6), convulsions (1 in 200), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain -1 in 1,000). Complications are more likely in children and young people, even death (1 or 2 in 1,000). If children under 2 years get measles 1 in 8,000 develops brain degeneration (called SSPE) which may occur many years after measles and is always fatal. For more information see website <http://www.ndsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Measles/>

MMR vaccine is safe and effective. One dose protects 90% and two doses protects more than 99% of young people and children.

I strongly urge you to make sure your son or daughter is protected from measles by ensuring they have received **2 doses of MMR** vaccine. To do this you should make an appointment with your own GP for your son or daughter to receive MMR vaccine. If this is your son or daughters first MMR vaccine they will also need a second dose in a month's time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Diana Kiely
Department of Public Health