



Public Health  
England



Dear Parent/Carer

**Please check your child is up to date with their routine vaccinations before they start school in September 2019.**

Before your child begins school, it is really important that they are up to date with their vaccinations to protect themselves from several infectious and potentially serious diseases.

At school, children will be mixing with large numbers of other children in a confined environment, which increases the risk of infection spreading. Vaccination builds children's immunity to protect them and also prevents the spread of infection to very vulnerable children who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

In some parts of South Gloucestershire and the country more widely, and amongst some age groups, vaccination rates in children are lower than needed. This puts unvaccinated children at greater risk and increases the likelihood of an outbreak in the local community. We continue to see cases of measles and mumps in the South West along with outbreaks across Europe. Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can be very unpleasant and sometimes lead to serious complications.

The best protection against measles and mumps is to ensure your child has had two doses of the mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccination. Therefore, before your child begins school please check with his/her GP surgery that they have had their routine vaccinations scheduled for 3 years and 4 months of age. These vaccinations include: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio (DTaP/ IPV) and the second dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR).

Please also check that they are up to date with all the other vaccinations that they would have been invited for as a baby and at 12 months old.

If you are not sure if your child has had all their routine vaccinations, check their personal health record (Red Book) or contact your GP surgery. For a checklist of the vaccines and the ages at which they should ideally be given visit [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations)

Yours faithfully,

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