

7th February 2024

To: All Coventry & Warwickshire Practices

Measles cases have been confirmed locally in Coventry and Warwickshire

Treat measles as a key winter risk for the public and staff alike.

Dear colleagues,

Over the last few weeks measles cases have been confirmed locally across our CW System. This is a rising cluster of cases and therefore we all need to be extra vigilant and prepared for what comes through our doors.

A national communication was sent out which pre-warned our system partners about the elevated risks in Coventry and Warwickshire. We asked that all primary care providers check the immunisation status of their staff, knowing that measles may circulate in your organisation. We are now asking for a rapid and complete response.

For Staff:

For all of your staff who need to be protected you will need to ensure that you have taken the following actions:

- a) Seek assurance that all of your staff are immune to measles having either had two MMR vaccines or a positive measles IgG antibody test. You should assume that two MMR vaccines is sufficient evidence of measles immunity;
- b) Offer MMR immunisation to staff if they have not had the necessary vaccines or are not immune. There is no age limit to when you can receive the vaccine and if in doubt, it is best to get it.


We recognise that for staff to receive vaccination or IgG test from their registered practice may be difficult as this is associated with Occupational Health also that there may be a delay in receiving the MMR from their registered practice due to capacity issues. **To expedite this and ensure that staff are safe, if there is a requirement for either the IgG test or an MMR as the employing practice you can add them as a Temporary Resident for the sole purposes of delivering these.**

For patients/members of the public:

Please find attached a detailed overview of the national guidance produced by the IPC team at the ICB and ensure staff use the training resources to raise their awareness of measles and promote MMR to all.

Please display information prominently and appropriately in key locations around your premises to raise awareness of measles and minimise transmission. Key locations include:

- External entry points;
- Anywhere people gather in your organisation such as circulation spaces etc;
- Treatment rooms



Please follow the guidance shared for any enquiries which may be measles related, and please check proactively for measles symptoms. If people coming into your premises have symptoms which may be measles, please isolate them and wear the appropriate PPE.

PPE:

Staff seeing patients with suspected measles should be either fully immunised or confirmed immune to measles. Pregnant members of staff should avoid seeing suspected measles cases.

The national IPC guidance suggests that clinicians seeing patients with suspected measles should wear gloves, apron, FFP3 mask and eye protection where necessary.

Although the national IPC manual stipulates that all practices should have FFP3 masks that have been fitted by a trained individual, from conversations with many practices and the LMC, we recognise that this is not always the case.

To support practices the ICB are commissioning FFP3 Fit test training through the Training hub. This will be for one member of staff per 25,000 patients (minimum 1 per PCN). These individuals will then have to provide cascade training to practices within their PCN to ensure that masks are fitted correctly. Please could PCNs decide on the people to be trained, who can then deliver the cascade training. **We will be in touch again once we finalised the training provider for people to book in.**

In addition to this the ICB are funding £100 per practice to purchase FFP3 masks. This will be paid to practices, and it will be for the practices to source these masks directly. Please follow the guidance below on purchase. **To be clear this funding of training and masks is a one off payment from the ICB due to the urgency of the situation. For future years it will be the responsibility of the practices to have trainers and purchase masks.**

Guidance for the purchase of FFP3 mask

FFP3 mask requirements:

- CE marked.
- Conform to EN standard EN 149:2001
- Additional markings such as FFP1, FFP2, FFP3 which indicates the level of protection.
- Provides a 'good' fit for the wearer.
- FFP3 mask filtering efficacy = 98%


Fit testing:

This must be mask specific i.e., staff must be fit tested with the FFP3 mask that they are going to use in the practice.

In line with NHSE guidance staff should be fit tested with two different mask manufacturers

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/secondary-care/infection-control/ppe/ffp3-fit-testing/ffp3-resilience-principles-in-acute-settings/>





Thank you again for everything you are doing and hope this information and funding supports your practice.

Kind Regards



Tim Sacks
Director of Primary Care
Coventry and Warwickshire ICB



Dr Mike Caley
Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Coventry and Warwickshire ICB

