



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

**Health Protection Agency**

**Cheshire & Merseyside  
Health Protection Unit**

To: Directors of Public Health, Cheshire & Merseyside

Suite D, Moorgate Point  
Moorgate Road  
Knowsley Industrial Park  
Kirkby L33 7XW

Dear Colleague

Tel +44 (0)151 290 8360  
Fax +44 (0)151 290 8366

**Post exposure prophylaxis for measles: revised guidance from the HPA**

[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

I am pleased to circulate the revised 'Cheshire & Merseyside Guidelines Public Health Management of Measles Cases & Outbreaks, including post-exposure prophylaxis of contacts' for local use.

This local guidance has been updated following the revised HPA guidance which details the use of Human Normal Immunoglobulin (HNIG) for infants up to six months of age and for HNIG or MMR for infants aged six months and older, taking into account the status of the mother in terms of her vaccination, birth date and previous exposure to measles and the birth date of the infant. There is also much more detail with regard to immunocompromised and pregnant contacts with strong emphasis on antibody testing before issuing HNIG. The full HPA document can be found at:

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1238565307587](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1238565307587)

Furthermore, the guidance indicates the need for robust local testing and immunisation services to ensure that those at risk are protected within the time intervals as shown. It is vital all PCTs have the capacity to implement these measures without local delays. The guidance also includes situations where clusters or outbreaks need to be managed in a co-ordinated way in a PCT or across PCTs.

Given the historical problems with MMR uptake and the continuing risks in our populations as a result, I am grateful to the Directors of Public Health meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> October for their support to this important public health issue and ask that, in particular, arrangements are in place to ensure:

- 1. Local frontline professionals are aware of the importance of relevant early notification to the HPU;**
- 2. Arrangements for taking blood samples from contacts; and**
- 3. Administration of immunoglobulin or MMR vaccine, as indicated, is in place both in and out-of-hours.**

I would also like to take this opportunity to pass on my special thanks to all colleagues in PCTs and NHS who have supported the response to measles cases and incidents during 2008/09.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Reid'.

Dr John Reid  
Unit Director

cc Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, CMHPU