

Director of Public Health
Sarah Perman



Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DE
HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 17 July 2024
Dear Parent.

A reminder to ensure your child's vaccinations are up to date, it is never too late to catch up:

As we approach the end of term, and as you may be preparing for a summer break in the UK or abroad, we would like to remind you of the importance of vaccinations and encourage you to use the summer break to catch up on any missing vaccinations.

This year, in Hertfordshire, and across England and Europe, we have seen higher numbers of cases of measles and whooping cough. We have supported a number of schools across Hertfordshire to help manage measles outbreaks this school year. Sadly, this has resulted in many children becoming very unwell, with some hospitalised.

Measles is highly contagious and spreads easily among unvaccinated people, especially in nurseries and schools and can lead to serious health conditions such as meningitis and hearing loss. The [MMR vaccine](#) is the most effective way to protect people from catching measles, mumps and rubella and becoming extremely unwell.

Whooping cough is also contagious, and can cause prolonged cough, coughing fits, breathlessness and gasping for breath during coughing, and vomiting due to coughing. It is particularly serious in very young infants and can cause death in infants under 6 months old. A free vaccination for whooping cough is available through your GP.

Due to the serious and contagious nature of these illnesses, if your child is exposed to measles or gets whooping cough they may be required to stay at home for a prolonged period.

Vaccination for measles (MMR vaccination) and whooping cough is available free via your GP. Check your child's status and contact your GP to make an appointment. Your practice nurse is best placed to address any questions or concerns you have about any of the vaccines.

I hope you have a pleasant summer break and thank you in advance for protecting your child through vaccination prior to September 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. C. Perman".

Sarah Perman
Director of Public Health