

Press release: Measles and summer travel to Europe

Young people are encouraged to make sure they have had both doses of the MMR vaccine before going on holiday to Europe where there are large outbreaks of measles.

Cases of measles also continue to rise across England in unvaccinated people of this age.

The vaccine is available free to anyone who has not received both doses as a child. It protects against measles, mumps and rubella, all of which can be very serious diseases and are highly infectious.

While vaccine uptake levels in the UK in young children are currently very high, coverage levels dipped to a low of 80% in 2003. This means that there are significant numbers of unprotected teenagers and young adults who could catch measles both in England, particularly in environments of close mixing such as summer festivals and when they travel abroad for the summer holidays.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can sometimes lead to serious complications and can be fatal in very rare cases so getting protected by taking up the offer of vaccination is crucial.

Between 1 January 2018 and 18 June 2018 there have been 643 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England. Cases were reported in most areas with London (225), the South-East (137), West Midlands (82), South-West (79), and Yorkshire and Humberside (74) reporting the most cases (based on provisional figures).

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that to prevent outbreaks of disease, 95% of people need to have received the MMR vaccine.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at Public Health England (PHE), said:

In the early 2000s there was a fall in MMR vaccination coverage in children and as a consequence, we are now seeing measles cases in young adults. Measles can be more serious in adults with a higher likelihood of hospitalisation and complications arising.

Measles is circulating in England and the rest of Europe. We often think about what travel-related vaccines we might need before going on holiday, but it's also important to check that we are up to date with routine vaccinations like MMR.

If you are unsure if you have had 2 doses of MMR call your GP practice to check and catch up if needed.

Parents are also urged to take up the offer of MMR vaccination for their children at 1 year old and as a pre-school booster at 3 years and 4 months old.

News story: Increasing capacity for genomic analysis: apply for funding

Innovate UK has up to £5 million to support capital investment in equipment that increases the UK's capacity to produce and commercialise genomic analysis technologies.

Genomic analysis can help in the understanding and treatment of diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

The funding is part of government's £210 million data to early diagnosis and precision medicine challenge under its [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](#). The funding is provided by UK Research and Innovation and delivered by Innovate UK.

The aim of the challenge is to help business and researchers to create new products and services that diagnose diseases earlier and more efficiently.

Projects should help take new products to market

Funding under this competition aims to help businesses working in genomic analysis, nucleic-acid-based diagnostics and related areas by supporting investment in equipment that will help them take new products to market.

Projects must demonstrate that the investment will:

- advance the UK's ability to manufacture genomic analysis technologies
- encourage partnerships between public and private organisations
- maximise further investment

Projects should have a clear plan of how the capital investment will lead to the translation and commercialisation of research including manufacture of new products.

Equipment manufactured could be laboratory-based or deployable in the field.

Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for registration is at midday on 11 July 2018
- projects must be led by a business with a relevant manufacturing facility either working alone or in partnership with other businesses or

researchers

- funding is for capital investment, including refurbishment and equipment
- we expect total project costs to be up to £10 million and for projects to last 3 to 5 months
- businesses could attract up to 50% of their project costs
- a briefing event will be held on 22 June 2018

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[Find out more about the data to early diagnosis and precision medicine challenge.](#)

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[Find out more about this competition and apply.](#)

Notice: 0X29 5BB, Controlled Reclamation (Oxford) Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits and surrenders that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit, decision document and site condition report evaluation template for:

- Operator name: Controlled Reclamation (Oxford) Limited
 - Installation name: Dix Pit Aggregate Recycling Facility
 - Permit number: EPR/FB3430DD/S005 and EPR/FB3430DD/V006
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Notice: E6 7FF, Baird & Co. Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document

- Operator name: Baird & Co. Limited

- Installation name: Gemini Business Park Precious Metal Refinery
- Permit number: EPR/CP3633KN/V003