



Press Statement

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Advice for teenagers and young adults in London as mumps figures increase

Public Health England (PHE) is reminding teenagers and young adults in London to be alert to symptoms of mumps following a rise in the number of cases reported in the capital.

There have been nearly 450¹ cases of mumps reported so far this year, which is an increase of nearly 150 cases compared to the same period in 2016².

PHE, together with NHS England, is investigating the increase in reported cases, particularly among teenagers and young adults.

Mumps is most recognisable by painful swellings at the side of the face under the ears. PHE's advice to anyone who suspects that they or a family member has mumps is that they stay away from school or college and social gatherings for five days after the glands swell, and that any student who is unsure if they have had two MMR vaccinations, contact their GP to arrange a catch-up MMR vaccine.

PHE also encourages parents to check that their child has had two doses of the vaccination, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

Dr Yvonne Doyle, Director for PHE in London said:

"Mumps can spread quickly from person to person and we often see cases in close knit communities such as schools, universities and colleges.

"Symptoms usually begin with a headache and fever, followed by a swelling of the glands in the neck. Although most people usually recover from mumps without treatment, in some cases it can cause complications such as inflammation of the testicles or ovaries, and in rare cases, meningitis and deafness."

"We are encouraging teenagers and young adults who are not sure if they have had two doses of the MMR vaccine to speak to their GP as soon as possible and arrange a catch-up MMR vaccine.

"Vaccination is the safest and most effective way to protect against mumps, especially when we know it is circulating in the community. Vaccination prevents most, but not all, cases of mumps and even if a vaccinated person does get mumps, they will likely have less severe illness than an unvaccinated person.

"The MMR vaccination also protects against two more serious illnesses German measles (rubella) and measles."

¹ There have been 438 cases of mumps reported in 2017 (01 January to 30 May 2017). This number includes confirmed, probable and possible cases of mumps.

² There were 295 cases of mumps reported from 01 January to 30 May in 2016. This number includes confirmed, probable and possible cases of mumps.

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Notes to Editors

1. Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health. Website: www.gov.uk/phe. Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk), Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland
2. For more information, please visit: www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Mumps/Pages/Introduction.aspx
3. In 2017 until (from 01 January to 30 May) there have been 438 cases of mumps reported. In the same time period in 2016 (01 January to 30 May) there were 295 cases of mumps reported. These numbers include confirmed cases, probable cases and possible cases.
4. These figures are taken from the case management system for each of the London Health Protection Teams. Therefore they may not be aligned exactly with numbers of cases microbiologically confirmed at the Public Health England National Reference Laboratory.
5. Please see below for a breakdown of mumps cases by London borough (01 January to 30 May 2017). These numbers include confirmed cases, probable cases and possible cases.

Cases of mumps by London borough

London Borough	Total
Barking and Dagenham	4
Barnet	23
Camden	21
City	1
Enfield	17
Hackney	17
Haringey	20
Havering	12
Islington	14
Newham	9
Redbridge	7
Tower Hamlets	22
Waltham Forest	9
NK*	2
North East and North Central London	178
Brent	21
City of Westminster	8
Ealing	17
Hammersmith and Fulham	14
Harrow	14
Hillingdon	24
Hounslow	13
Kensington and Chelsea	15

North West London	126
Bexley	9
Bromley	17
Croydon	13
Greenwich	7
Kingston upon Thames	7
Lambeth	14
Lewisham	11
Merton	5
Richmond upon Thames	9
Southwark	13
Sutton	6
Wandsworth	22
NK*	1
South London	134
London	438

*Address details not known