

In partnership with



# MEASLES

**Don't let your child be the  
one who gets it!**

**During 2012, 43% of measles outbreaks in England were  
in the North West with a total of 865 confirmed cases.**

## Why is measles a problem?

Measles is a highly infectious disease and can be very serious, leading to ear infections, fits, brain damage and can even kill. If your child has it they will infect almost all unprotected children.

Although levels of vaccination have been high in the past, they dropped some years ago when the MMR vaccine was mistakenly related to autism. All those who missed having the vaccine should make sure they have it now.

## Is your child at risk?

Your child is at risk if they have not had the MMR vaccination – two doses is recommended for the best protection. If you can't remember how many doses they have had check with your doctor.

It doesn't matter how old your child is now just get them protected. It is better to have two doses of the MMR vaccine now than risk leaving them unprotected.

If you gave your child the single measles vaccine they are protected, but still give them the MMR vaccine as it will protect them against rubella and mumps too.

## Side effects?

It can cause some symptoms of measles, mumps and rubella for up to six weeks after vaccination, but in a much milder form. However, please remember that not all children will develop symptoms.

Don't worry, it is proof the vaccine is working and your child is building up a resistance to future contact with the three diseases.

## Do parents/guardians need to be vaccinated?

If you've had measles you will have natural resistance to further exposure. If you haven't, you are advised to get vaccinated.

## For more information

See your GP or visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) and search 'measles'.

It's not too late to get vaccinated!

