



17/01/2020

**FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN OF SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN
Re: Mumps infection**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

There has been a case of Mumps at your child's school and your child may have been exposed. If your child has had Mumps or has received two MMR vaccines the chance of him/her developing Mumps is low. If your child has not had Mumps or has not been fully vaccinated with two MMR vaccines, then it is quite possible that he/she might get Mumps.

What is Mumps?

Mumps is a viral infection. Symptoms include high temperature, headache, and swelling of cheek and jaw. Children are infectious for up to 7 days before the cheek swelling appears and remain infectious for 9 days after symptoms develop. Symptoms can develop from 12 to 35 days after exposure.

Why should I be concerned about Mumps?

Most healthy children get over mumps with no problems. There are, however, a number of complications that can happen with mumps. Meningitis (inflammation of the covering of the brain) can occur but usually passes without problems. More rarely encephalitis (inflammation of the brain itself) and deafness can occur. In teenage boys and men Mumps can cause inflammation of the testicles (orchitis). Contrary to popular belief Mumps is not a frequent cause of infertility. Mumps in early pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of miscarriage.

What should I do if I think my child has Mumps?

If your child develops swelling of the cheeks and jaw line bring them to your doctor for examination. Your doctor will be able to tell you if it is Mumps and will advise you what to do. There is no specific treatment for Mumps. If your child is diagnosed with Mumps, to prevent the spread of Mumps to others, your child must stay at home from school and after school service **for 5 days after symptoms develop.** [If so please inform the school Principal and the after school Manager]

How can I stop Mumps spreading in the family?

Anyone who has not had Mumps or received the Mumps vaccine should contact their doctor to discuss vaccination.

Most school children should have had two doses of the MMR vaccine which protects against Measles, Mumps and Rubella infection.

If your child received only one MMR vaccine, please attend your GP for the second MMR vaccine now. [There should be a gap of at least one month between the first



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and the second MMR vaccine – discuss with GP] MMR is safe and effective in preventing infection.

In order to increase the accessibility to MMR for those most affected, the HSE is offering a free dose of MMR vaccine to all 11-30 year olds to prevent as many cases as possible.

Any individual aged between 11 and 30 years of age who has not had two doses of the MMR vaccine or who is unsure of their vaccine status are being urged to avail of the offer of a free dose of the MMR vaccine.

If you need to check what vaccinations your child has had to date you can do so by contacting the Immunisation Office, Markievicz House, Sligo Tel 07191 55148 or the Immunisation Office, St Josephs Hospital, Stranorlar, Co Donegal Tel 07491 31391.

Yours sincerely

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