

## Population vaccination coverage

The MMR vaccine gives protection against three serious diseases: [measles](#), [mumps](#), and [rubella](#). Before the introduction of vaccines, all three diseases were extremely common and most people had them at some point, usually as children. Although many people survived without long-term effects, others were left with serious disabilities and some children died. Complications of measles include fatal pneumonia and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain); mumps can cause deafness and meningitis, and in the past rubella caused many babies to be born with serious abnormalities (known as Congenital Rubella Syndrome).

Three years after the [measles virus](#) was eliminated from the UK, the country has lost its “measles-free” status with the World Health Organization, following 231 confirmed cases of the infection in the first quarter of 2019.

Public Health England have now urged parents to check their children had had the full set of vaccinations.

This vaccination indicator relates to all children for whom the local authority is responsible who received two doses of MMR on or after their first birthday and at any time up to their fifth birthday, as a percentage of all children whose fifth birthday falls within the period.

- For 2017/18 – the coverage for Sandwell (86.9%) compares with England (87.2%) and the West Midlands (87.6%), and is statistically worse than these comparators.
- Increasing trend over past 5 years.