

# Your Voice Your Health



## Measles is spreading in Brent

Don't let your child catch it  
Here are the facts



**NHS**  
Brent



[www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk)

## DEADLY INFECTIOUS VIRUS HITS AFRICAN CARIBBEAN KIDS AS PARENTS SHUN MMR VACCINE

by Jacqueline Asafu-Adjaye

**O**n first sight the arrival of a deep red rash on your child's skin, resembling freckles might appear harmless and even cute.

Health officials dealing with the measles epidemic in Brent have raised the alarm on the growing misconception amongst parents that measles, can be fought off like flu. Dr. Deepti Kumar, a consultant from the North West London Health Protection Unit said:

"Measles is a very serious infection as it can lead to pneumonia and encephalitis. It is not possible to tell who will be seriously affected by measles. This is why it's incredibly important to continue to remind parents about the benefits of having their child vaccinated with two doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) for optimum protection. It is never too late to get vaccinated."

### Why is measles spreading in Brent?

Brent has seen a least 87 cases of measles and with the highest levels of outbreaks occurring in Dollis Hill, Harlesden, Kensal Green and Willesden Green. African and Caribbean pupils are amongst some of

the worst hit communities, by this totally preventable disease. Despite numerous reassurances from the Department of Health vouching for the safety of MMR, the controversy surrounding the vaccine has caused undecided black parents to dangerously postpone MMR immunisation of their children. Currently one in 15 children with measles develop more serious complications such as fits or brain damage.

### It's safe

Having the MMR vaccine will not only protect your child against measles but also mumps and rubella. There is no credible evidence to support the link between the MMR Vaccine and autism. The vaccine has been used widely and safely globally for over thirty years, with over 500 million doses given in over 100 countries.

### NEXT WEEK

*Your Voice Your Health* investigates why a single combined MMR vaccine is more effective than injecting your child with single vaccines