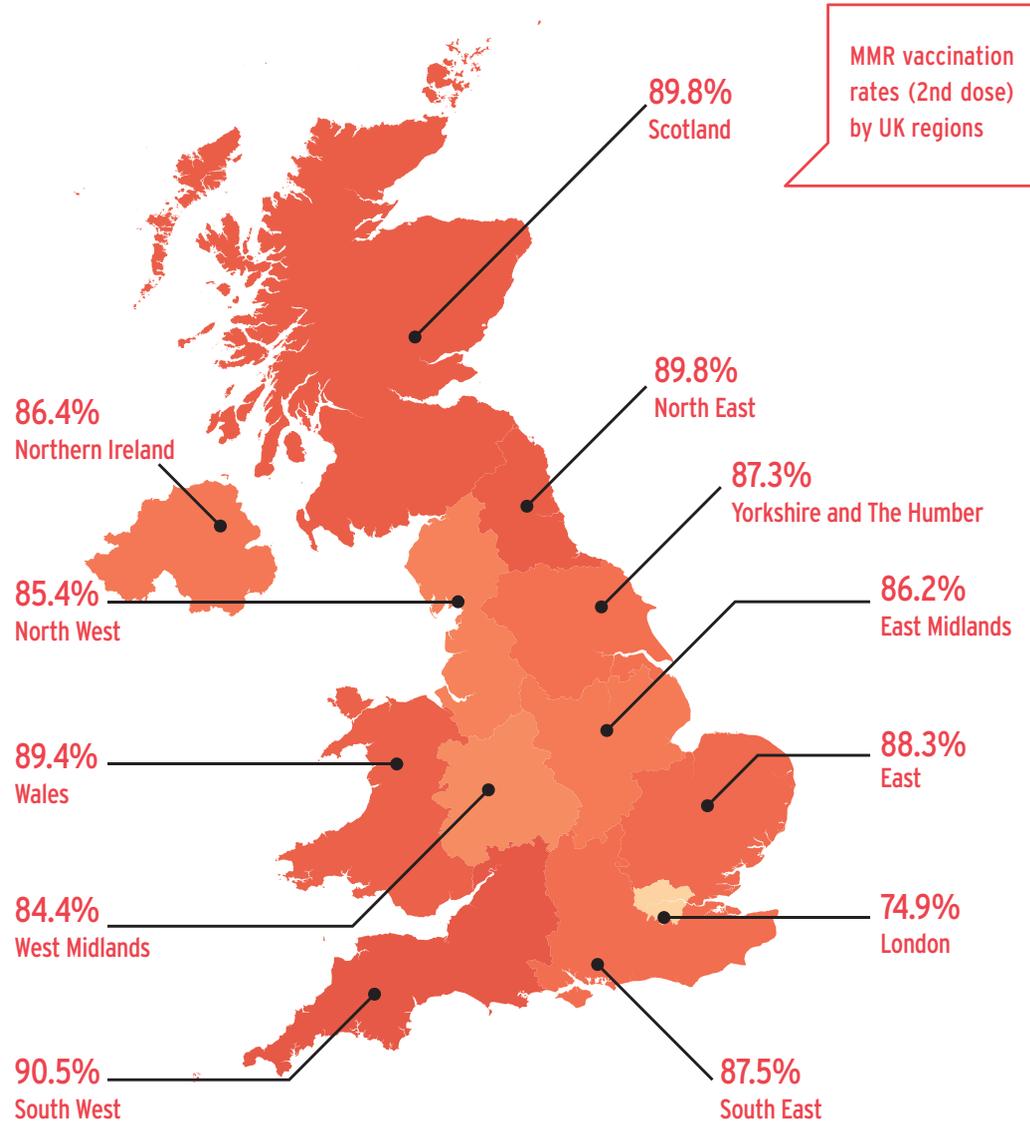


data graphic of the day

Visual by MARIANNA LONGO

Measles warning as new figures show MMR vaccination rates fall again



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD HAS MEASLES

Ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if:

You think you or your child may have measles

You've been in close contact with someone who has measles and you've not had measles before or you've not had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine

You've been in close contact with someone who has measles and you're pregnant - measles can be serious in pregnancy

You have a weakened immune system and think you have measles or have been in close contact with someone with measles

MEASLES CAN SPREAD TO OTHERS EASILY. CALL YOUR GP SURGERY BEFORE YOU GO IN. THEY MAY SUGGEST TALKING OVER THE PHONE

By PUPUL CHATTERJEE

PARENTS have been urged to take their children for MMR jabs as figures show vaccination rates have reached new lows in parts of England. In one area of London just 56 per cent of five-year-olds had received both doses of the vaccine in the first quarter of 2023, raising fears that the capital could face a measles outbreak. Across England, only 85 per cent

of children who turned five between January and March this year had received their second dose of the measles mumps and rubella. That is significantly below the target threshold rate of 95 per cent required to maintain measles elimination in the population. MMR uptake is now at the lowest level in a decade in England. The lowest rate of 56% is in the London borough of Hackney. Eight other areas of London have an MMR vaccination rate of lower than 70 per cent. Outside the capital there are rates

below 80 per cent in cities including Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and Wolverhampton and also in Kirklees, Peterborough and Nottinghamshire. There is only one local authority area - Bath and North East Somerset - which has the target vaccination rate of 95 per cent. However, Scotland and Wales have vaccination rates just under 90 per cent, while Northern Ireland is 86 per cent. To avoid the risk of a measles outbreak in London, the NHS began a polio and MMR catch up

programme in May 2023. GP and Senior Clinical Adviser to the vaccination programme in London, Dr Oge Ilozue said: "Measles cases are rising in London, there is no cure, and vaccination is the only protection against becoming unwell. "The NHS wants to keep children safe and protected from serious illness, which is why we are encouraging all parents of children aged 1 to 11 who are not yet up-to-date with their routine vaccinations for polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) to come forward.

You can contact your GP practice to check your vaccination record, discuss any questions and make an appointment with the practice nurse to catch up on any missed doses of MMR." Measles is currently spreading in London, with 128 cases confirmed in England between 1 January 2023 and 30 June 2023, 85 (66%) of which were in London. UKHSA modelling suggests that, unless MMR vaccination rates improve, London could see a measles outbreak with tens of thousands of cases.