



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

**HSE - Eastern Region**  
**Department of Public Health**  
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Date 11/02/2019

Dear Parent/ Guardian/ student Cross and Passion Kilcullen

There has been cases of mumps in Leaving Cert Year at your child's school and in the wider community and you/ your child may have been exposed. If your son/daughter has either had mumps or has received two doses of the MMR vaccine, the chance of him/her developing mumps is low. If, however, your son or daughter has not had mumps and has not received two doses of the MMR vaccine, then it is quite possible that he/she might get mumps. If you cannot confirm that your son /daughter had 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella, vaccine), he/she needs to complete the course 2 doses in total. MMR is one of the safest vaccines.

***What is Mumps?***

Mumps is a viral infection. Symptoms include fever, headache, and swelling of cheek and jaw. Meningitis (inflammation of the covering of the brain) can occur but usually resolves without problems. More rarely encephalitis (inflammation of the brain itself) and deafness can occur. In adolescent and adult males mumps can cause inflammation of the testicles (orchitis), but, contrary to popular belief it is not a frequent cause of infertility. Cases are infectious for up to 7 days before the cheek swelling appears and **remain** infectious for **5 days** after symptoms develop.

***What should I do now?***

If your son/daughter has received two doses of the MMR vaccine or has had mumps there is no need for concern. If your child has not received two doses of the MMR vaccine and has not had mumps, then you should bring them to your GP for advice on vaccination. The vaccine will not protect them if they have been exposed this time, but it will protect them from future exposures.

***What should I do if I think my child has mumps?***

If your child develops swelling of the cheeks and jaw line bring him/ her to your doctor for examination. He/she will be able to tell you if it looks like mumps and will advise you what to do. There is no specific treatment for mumps.

***Can my son/ daughter stay in school?***

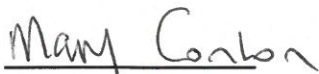
To prevent spread of mumps to others, your child must stay at home for 5 days after the symptoms develop.

***How can I stop mumps spreading in the family?***

If other children have not received two doses of MMR vaccine please go to your family doctor for a complete course of vaccinations, which is a total of two doses.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at (045) 920436 or a colleague at the above number

Sincerely,

  
Dr Mary Conlon MCRN 01599  
Senior Medical Officer