

GLS/C/916-24

CIRCULAR

28 October 2024

UAE National Measles campaign (2024-2025)

Dear Parents,

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has announced the launch of a national vaccination campaign against measles, aiming to provide a dose of the MMR vaccine to all children aged 1 to 7 years. This vaccine protects against Measles, Rubella, and Mumps.

This campaign is based on recommendations from the World Health Organization, which advises including the MMR vaccine in routine childhood immunizations in general and conducting periodic national measles vaccination campaigns. This is to ensure effective protection against Measles and avoid occurrence of outbreaks, especially in the wake of the spread of the disease in many countries and the risk it poses through frequent travel and movement across the borders. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that affects both children and adults and is one of the leading causes of disability and child mortality worldwide.

To achieve the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating measles, vaccination is considered as the best, safest, and most effective way to prevent the disease and enhance community immunity. In this context, UAE has decided to undertake national measles vaccination campaign targeting all individuals from one year to seven years of age. A single dose of MMR vaccine will be administered by injection, regardless of previous doses or prior measles infection.

The vaccine will be provided free of charge at all health centers under the Dubai Health, some other private health centers, schools, and nurseries during the current academic year (2024-2025). Vaccination is mandatory for all children in the target age group except those with documented medical contraindications.

The Dubai Health Authority, in collaboration with its partners in the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health Abu Dhabi, calls on all members of the community and parents to cooperate in making this national campaign a success, protecting everyone from Measles, and eliminating it in the United Arab Emirates. Dubai Health Authority (DHA) will work in cooperation with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai (KHDA) to organize the process of receiving measles vaccine for school children in the first grade, and in the event that the child does not receive the vaccine, a procedure will be taken to transfer students to distance learning if there is exposure to a person infected with measles at school or outside it, as long as the student does not have proof of receiving two or more doses of the MMR vaccine or a laboratory test showing the presence of previous immunity or the student holds a medical exemption from the vaccine, in order to prevent the spread of measles in the school community and to provide a healthy and safe environment in our schools.

Additional information on Measles provided by the government of UAE is appended with this circular.

Please find attached **the Measles campaign consent form** which needs to be filled, signed and returned to the class teacher on or before **30th October 2024**.

Warm regards,



Asha Alexander
Principal

Executive Leader - Climate Change

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الرئيس التنفيذي - تغير المناخ