**Measles outbreak**

On Thursday 14 March 2024, a measles outbreak was announced in Eindhoven and the surrounding area. A vaccination rate of more than 95% is needed in order to prevent the outbreak of measles. The vaccination rate for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) is 86% among two-year-olds in Zuid-Holland (2023 data). The public health department (GGD ZHZ) and Jong JGZ warn that this situation increases the risk of severe illness and even death in young children. The GGD ZHZ and Jong JGZ therefore urgently advise all citizens to prioritise timely vaccination against infectious diseases for their own protection and the protection of others.

**Measles**

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by the measles virus. Symptoms include a high fever and a red rash on the face and body. Measles is an airborne disease that is spread through sneezing and coughing. Unvaccinated people and people without prior exposure to measles are most likely to contract the disease.

**Vaccination**

Measles can be easily prevented through vaccination. In the Netherlands, children are offered a free measles vaccine as part of the [National Immunisation Programme](https://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/infectieziekten). The measles vaccine is included in the MMR vaccine that protects against three infectious diseases: mumps, measles and rubella.

The GGD ZHZ and Jong JGZ strongly urge parents to vaccinate their children and themselves against these preventable diseases if they have not already been exposed or previously vaccinated against measles.

* **Vaccination up to age 18**We follow the National Immunisation Programme. If your child missed a vaccination,you can make a free appointment at Jong JGZ for children aged 14 months to 18 years by sending an e-mail to contact@jongjgz.nl or calling [088 – 566 45 49](https://grid.internal/DGJ%24/Samenwerking/Communicatie/00.%20Algemeen/Media/Persberichten/2024/088%20%E2%80%93%20566%2045%2049) (Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm).
* **Vaccination for adults aged 18 and older**Adults aged 18 and older can schedule a measles vaccine at their own expense by calling [078 770 8500](https://grid.internal/DGJ%24/Samenwerking/Communicatie/00.%20Algemeen/Media/Persberichten/2024/078%20770%208500) (Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm). Vaccination costs approximately €60 for adults.

The GGD ZHZ and Jong JGZ strongly urge everyone to take responsibility for their own health and the health and safety of others by ensuring timely vaccination against infectious diseases.