



Mumps

Should there be a case of Mumps in your child's classroom, your child may be exposed. If your child has had Mumps or has received the Mumps vaccine (part of the MMR vaccine) the chance of him developing Mumps is extremely low. If your child has not had Mumps and has not been vaccinated, then it is quite possible that he might get Mumps.

What is Mumps?

Mumps is a viral infection. Symptoms include high temperature, headache, and swelling of cheek and jaw. Children are infectious for up to 7 days before the cheek swelling appears and remain infectious for 9 days after symptoms develop. Symptoms can develop from 12 to 35 days after exposure.

Why should I be concerned about Mumps?

Most healthy children get over Mumps with no problems. There are, however, a number of complications that can happen with Mumps. Meningitis (inflammation of the covering of the brain) can occur but usually passes without problems. More rarely encephalitis (inflammation of the brain itself) and deafness can occur. In teenage boys and men Mumps can cause inflammation of the testicles (orchitis). Contrary to popular belief Mumps is not a frequent cause of infertility. Mumps in early pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of miscarriage.

What should I do now?

If your child has either received the Mumps vaccine or has had Mumps there is no need for concern. If your child has not received the vaccine and has not had mumps, then you should bring them to the doctor for vaccination. The vaccine will not protect them if they have been exposed this time, but it will protect them in the future.

What should I do if I think my child has Mumps?

If your child develops swelling of the cheeks and jaw line bring them to your doctor for examination. Your doctor will be able to tell you if it is Mumps and will advise you what to do. There is no specific treatment for Mumps.

Can my child stay in school?

To prevent spread of Mumps to others, your child must stay at home for 9 days after the symptoms develop.

How can I stop Mumps spreading in the family?

Anyone who has not had Mumps or received the Mumps vaccine should go to the doctor to discuss vaccination.

Your doctor and local health clinic will be able to answer any further questions that you might have about Mumps and the Mumps vaccine.