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BY EMAIL ONLY

To: All General Practitioners

10th June 2024

Re: New recommendation for MMR vaccine for infants aged six to less than 12 months prior to travel abroad

Dear Colleagues,

You will be aware that the HSE's National Health Protection Office has been leading a coordinated response to the current public health threat from measles through a National Measles Incident Management Team (IMT), established at the end of January.

At its most recent meeting, the IMT issued new advice in response to the threat of infection with measles in children travelling overseas during the summer holiday period, noting the escalating threat of measles globally. The IMT recommends **that all infants aged 6-11 months should receive an MMR vaccine before travelling abroad (ideally at least 2 weeks before travel)**. As measles is circulating widely globally, this recommendation applies to all travel abroad.

This is based on the **NIAC recommendation*** that infants aged six months to less than 12 months of age should receive one dose of MMR vaccine [prior to travelling]. To note, a dose given at less than 12 months of age does not replace the dose recommended at 12 months of age.

The HSE has consulted with the IMO regarding fees payable to GPs supporting this work and it has been agreed that **GPs can claim a fee for administration of this MMR vaccine using an outbreak code**.

***NIAC Guidelines Chapter 12 Measles:** Section 12.5.6 Vaccination for those travelling to areas where measles is endemic or where outbreaks are occurring. [NIAC Immunisation Guidelines, Chapter 12. Measles | Royal College of Physicians of Ireland \(preservica.com\)](#)

Yours sincerely

Dr Colm Henry
Chief Clinical Officer