

30th April 2012

To: All General Practitioners & G.P. Co-ops.

Re: Football fans travelling to Euro 2012 and Measles outbreaks in the Ukraine

Dear Doctor,

The HSE is working with the Football Association of Ireland to alert fans travelling to Euro 2012 as there is a large measles outbreak in the Ukraine and a high level of measles in other European countries like France, Germany, Italy and Romania.

There have been at least 5,000 cases of measles in the Ukraine in the first three months of 2012. This figure is likely to be an underestimate and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has warned that the epidemic is expected to accelerate and spread during the peak transmission for measles which runs until June.

http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/20120314_RA_Measles_Ukraine.pdf

Fans born after 1978 are being advised to ensure they have received MMR vaccine and if they are unvaccinated or are not sure if they have received the vaccine to attend their GP prior to travelling. Those born before 1978 are likely to have had measles and so do not require vaccination.

As a result you may see an increased demand for MMR vaccination. Additional supplies of MMR vaccine are available from the HSE National Cold Chain Service and may be ordered in the usual way.

Many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Kelleher
Assistant National Director for Public Health, Integrated Services Directorate
Medical Council Registration Number: 19719