

**BRITISH PAEDIATRIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT**

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## NATIONAL CONGENITAL RUBELLA SURVEILLANCE

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| <b>Objectives</b>  | To monitor the cases of congenital rubella and investigating the circumstances surrounding any new cases following the cessation of antenatal rubella screening in 2016.  |
| <b>Integrated Screening Outcomes Surveillance (ISOSS) Team</b> | Helen Peters (ISOSS surveillance manager) & Kate Francis (ISOSS surveillance coordinator)<br>Population, Policy and Practice Programme<br>UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health<br>30 Guilford Street<br>London WC1N 1EH<br><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:helen.peters2@nhs.net">helen.peters2@nhs.net</a> / <a href="mailto:kate.francis3@nhs.net">kate.francis3@nhs.net</a>   |
| <b>Website</b>   | <a href="http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/congenitalrubella">www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/congenitalrubella</a>  |
| <b>Background</b>  | Antenatal screening for rubella (German measles) susceptibility stopped on 1 April 2016 ( <a href="https://phescreeing.blog.gov.uk/2016/03/31/rubella-susceptibility-screening-in-pregnancy-ends-tomorrow/">https://phescreeing.blog.gov.uk/2016/03/31/rubella-susceptibility-screening-in-pregnancy-ends-tomorrow/</a> ). This follows evidence that proves that screening for rubella susceptibility during pregnancy does not meet the UK National Screening Committee criteria ( <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evidence-review-criteria-national-screening-programmes">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evidence-review-criteria-national-screening-programmes</a> ) for a screening programme. The best way to protect pregnant women from rubella infection is to ensure they have two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccinations before they are pregnant. Following the cessation of antenatal rubella screening in 2016, the NHS Infectious Diseases in Pregnancy Service (IDPS) programme continues to fund surveillance of congenital rubella cases through the Integrated Screening Outcomes Surveillance (ISOSS) team to monitor any developments in this area. |
| <b>Coverage</b>  | England only  |
| <b>Case definition</b>   | Any infant or child up to 16 years of age born in England (regardless of where maternal infection was acquired) or abroad who has suspected or confirmed congenital rubella.  |
| <b>Reporting instructions</b>                                  | Please report any infant or child seen by you for the first time in the past month who meets the case definition, <b>regardless of country of birth</b> .   |
| <b>Methods</b>   | Following a BPSU notification, reporting paediatricians will be contacted directly by the ISOSS team using secure nhs.net email and required to provide complete case information.  |
| <b>Funding</b>   | The National Congenital Rubella Surveillance Programme is funded by the NHS Infectious Diseases in Pregnancy Screening Programme ( <a href="https://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes/infectious-diseases-in-pregnancy">https://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes/infectious-diseases-in-pregnancy</a> ).   |
| <b>Approvals</b>   | <p>Patient data is collected by ISOSS under legal permissions granted under Regulation 3 of The Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 to collect this data without patient consent. .</p> <p>PHE has permission from Parliament to collect this data without the need to seek consent from individual patients.</p> <p>ISOSS also conforms to the requirements of the Data Protection Act (2018).</p>  |
| <b>References</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>British Paediatric Surveillance Unit. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report, 2008-09. Available at <a href="http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/system/files/protected/page/BPSU%20complete%20for%20web">http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/system/files/protected/page/BPSU%20complete%20for%20web</a>.</li></ul>   |

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