



FEDERATION
BEIS DIN · בית דין

65 Watford Way
London NW4 3AQ

T 020 8202 2263
F 020 8203 0610

beisdin@federation.org.uk
federation.org.uk

ב' לסדר להזהיר הגדולים על הקטנים, ח' אייר תשע"ט

The World Health Organization have confirmed in the past that the UK eliminated measles in 2016. This is because the MMR vaccine is highly effective.

However, in recent months there have been outbreaks of measles in several countries in which it had previously been eliminated, including almost a thousand cases reported in the UK in 2018. Media reports indicate that in Hackney alone, since last November over 270 cases of measles have been reported.

Measles can be unpleasant, although it will usually pass in about 7 to 10 days without causing any further problems. However, it can lead to serious and potentially life-threatening complications in some people. These include infections of the lungs (pneumonia) and brain (encephalitis), and in some cases can result in death ר"ל.

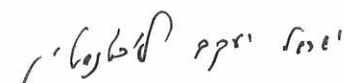
The current outbreak represents a significant risk to the community at large. Even those who are vaccinated are potentially at risk, as even those who have received the recommended double dose of the vaccine will only be 97% protected. Furthermore, some people, such as those with compromised immune systems, cannot be vaccinated and are at increased risk if all those who are able to be vaccinated do not do so. However, if around 95% of the population vaccinate themselves, the so-called "herd immunity" ensures that the whole population is protected because the virus has little opportunity to spread.

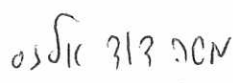
There is a real concern that those who refrain from vaccinating themselves are putting not only themselves but also others at risk.

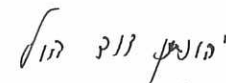
After consulting with expert and experienced doctors who are also יראי שמים, as to the potential risks involved in being vaccinated versus the risks involved in not being vaccinated, it is the Halachic opinion of this Beis Din that everyone who is healthy enough to be vaccinated must do so, and must vaccinate their children too.

This too is the opinion we have heard from גדולי הפוסקים in Eretz Yisroel, and was the ruling of R' Elyashiv zt"l.

בברכת והסרותי מחלה מקרבך


Dayan YY Lichtenstein
Rosh Beis Din


Dayan MD Elzas


Dayan YD Hool


Dayan YY Posen

We are in full agreement with all of the above, and urge everyone to ensure that they and their children are vaccinated.


Dr Y Adler MB BS


Dr J Spitzer MB BS