Authors' reply: An ongoing large outbreak of measles in Merseyside, England, January to June 2012

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Authors' reply:

We would like to thank Dr Plans-Rubió for his comments regarding the reproductive number.

It has to be noted that measles is highly infectious and the low estimated reproductive number estimated is likely to be the result of the relatively high levels of vaccination in Merseyside over time [1]. However, the levels have been lower than the 95% recommended by the World Health Organisation needed to prevent outbreaks [2], leaving a pool of susceptible individuals within the population of Merseyside.

Therefore, as we have taken account of the immunised population in Merseyside, our estimate as rightly suggested by Dr Plans-Rubió represents an effective reproductive number (R) rather than the basic reproductive number (R_0) for measles.

References

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