

Experts warn of rise in deadly mumps virus

Make sure you've been vaccinated

By **Petrina Vousden**
Health Editor

THE national disease watchdog is urging people to make sure they are vaccinated against mumps as the number of cases of the potentially deadly illness is on the rise again.

Already this year there have been more cases than in the whole of last year, with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre reporting 299 cases over the first 37 weeks of 2014; 223 were recorded in 2013.

Mumps is a contagious viral illness that causes fever and tenderness of one or more salivary glands. Complications of the illness can include inflammation of the testicles or ovaries which can cause infertility, meningitis, deafness or potentially deadly inflammation of the pancreas or brain.

Most cases can be prevented by an appropriate vaccine.

The Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine was introduced in Ireland in 1998. But uptake of the vaccine was recorded at 69 per cent in 2001 following research published in

ILLNESS CAN CAUSE INFERTILITY

WHAT IS IT?

Mumps is a contagious, acute viral illness that causes fever, headaches and painful swollen glands.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Mumps spreads through contact with the saliva of someone who is infected and has an incubation period of up to three weeks.

CAN IT CAUSE COMPLICATIONS?

It can lead to meningitis, deafness and inflammation of the testicles or ovaries which can occasionally lead to infertility.

HOW MANY DOSES OF THE VACCINE ARE NEEDED?

Two shots are needed to provide maximum protection.

1998 – since disproved – linking it to autism.

More than 100 of the cases reported this year are in the 15 to 24 age group, among people who may have missed out on the jab as a result of that scare.

The HPSC's Dr Suzanne Cotter is now urging people to ensure they are protected. 'All children and young adults who have not received two doses of MMR vaccine are encouraged to seek vaccination from their GP or student health service,' she said.

Dr Cotter said there has been a

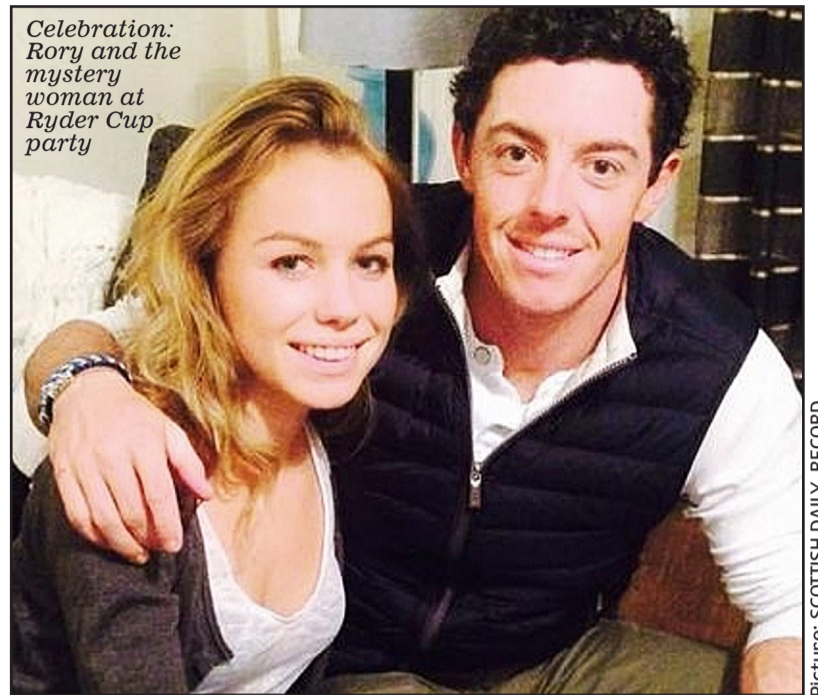
'marked increase' in the number of reported cases to date this year and that many of the young people affected were unaware of their vaccination status or reported incomplete vaccination.

While the vaccine (two doses) is only believed to be 63 to 96 per cent effective in preventing mumps, the HPSC report said there is also evidence to demonstrate that the severity of illness among vaccinated people is less severe and there are less complications if they develop mumps.

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Just who is Rory's latest supporter?

Celebration: Rory and the mystery woman at Ryder Cup party



Picture: SCOTTISH DAILY RECORD

LESS than a week after his Ryder Cup victory, it seems Rory's winning run has continued as this mystery blonde beauty was pictured with his mother yesterday cheering him on – so who is she, Rory? Last Sunday he was part of the victorious European Ryder Cup team and he certainly didn't hold back in his winning celebrations.

The world number one was pictured at a party with his arm

Support: Cheering Rory on yesterday

By **Eamon Donoghue**

around a young blonde woman. Yesterday, the young lady who accompanied his mother was dressed for the conditions as the 25-year-old and his father took part in the pro- celeb Alfred Dunhill Championship.

Since his infamous break up with Caroline Wozniacki last May, Rory has been linked to a string of women including model Nadia Forde.



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