2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

With the current measles outbreak investigation in Clark County, Washington, we understand that parents in our area have questions about what can be done to keep children safe, and what their child’s school/child care will do if a case of measles is confirmed at their site.

Here are some important points to keep in mind:

* Measles is highly contagious. If a case is confirmed in a school or child care center, Washington County Public Health will review all staff and student vaccination records to determine the risk of further spread.
* Keeping children in school/child care is a priority, but measles is a serious disease. **An unvaccinated child who is exposed to measles will not be allowed to go to school or child care during the time period when they could become sick, usually for 21 days after exposure.** This may be extended if there are more measles cases.
* People excluded from school or child care after a measles exposure are asked to stay home to avoid exposing others in the community.
* **Now is a great time for all families, teachers and school administrators to review their vaccine records and get their vaccines up to date.**

See the reverse side for more information about measles and measles immunity.

This document has been made available in Spanish; please contact ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Disease Control and Prevention at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

**About measles:**

* Measles is a very contagious viral disease that can spread through the air when someone sick with measles coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread by direct contact with nose discharge and spit of someone sick with measles.
* The symptoms of measles start with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes followed by a red rash that usually begins on the head or face and spreads to the rest of the body.
* People are contagious with measles for four days before the rash appears and up to four days after the rash appears.
* After a person who is not immune is exposed to measles, symptoms usually develop in one to two weeks, but it can take up to three weeks.
* Complications of measles include ear infection, lung infection and, in rare cases, inflammation of the brain. About one in 1,000 children dies of measles.
* Anyone who is not immune to measles and believes they have measles symptoms should contact their health care provider or urgent care **by telephone** **before going in to the clinic** to make arrangements to avoid exposing others to the virus.
* You are considered immune to measles if any of the following are true:
  + You are a pre-school age child with one measles vaccine (MMR – measles, mumps, rubella)
  + You are a school-aged child or college student who has received two doses of measles vaccine
  + You are a healthcare worker who has had two doses of measles vaccine
  + You are an adult who is not a healthcare worker and who has had one dose of measles vaccine
  + You were born before 1957
  + You have had the measles, diagnosed by a health care provider and confirmed with a lab test
  + You have had a blood test that shows you are immune to measles

Call 211 for answers to general questions about measles. If you think you might have measles, call your primary care provider or local public health department.

* Up-to-date information on the current outbreak and public exposures can be found on the Clark County, Washington website: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation>
* OHA webpage: <http://healthoregon.org/measles>