2019

Dear school administrators, nurses and staff,

The current measles outbreak investigation in Clark County, Washington, raises questions about how local county public health officials in Oregon would handle a measles diagnosis in a student or staff of a school or child care.

Here are the key points to keep in mind:

* Measles is highly contagious. Consequently a single case in a school or child care will prompt a detailed review of staff and student vaccination records to determine the risk of further spread.
* Your school can prepare by designating a point person who will communicate with public health, especially in the busy first 72 hours after identification of a case. This person should be prepared with immunization records for all students and staff to quickly identify those at risk.
* Keeping children in school/childcare is a priority, but measles is a serious disease. If an unvaccinated person is exposed to measles, they will not be allowed to go to school or child care during the time period when they could become sick, usually days 7-21 after exposure. This may be extended if there are further cases.
* People excluded from school or childcare after a measles exposure are asked to stay home to avoid exposing others in the community.
* Unvaccinated children, who get the measles shot within 72 hours of exposure, may be allowed back to school or care at the discretion of the local health department.
* Now is a great time for families, teachers, and school administrators to review the

vaccine records of their students and staff.

See the reverse side for more information about measles and measles immunity. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

**About measles:**

* Measles is a 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 susceptible person is exposed to measles, symptoms usually develop in 1 to 2 weeks, but it can take up to 3 weeks.
* Complications of measles include ear infection, lung infection, and in rare cases inflammation of the brain.
  + About 1 in 1000 children die 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 to make arrangements to avoid exposing others to the virus.
* People 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

Anyone with questions about measles infection or the measles vaccine should call their primary care provider or their local county health department:

* Up to date information on the investigation 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>