

Mumps

Mumps is an acute viral illness characterized by fever and swelling of the salivary glands, typically the parotids. Transmission is generally airborne through respiratory droplets or through direct contact with nasal secretions.

Reporting of this vaccine-preventable, viral infection was discontinued in Oregon in 1981. Once an almost universal childhood infection, mumps incidence decreased in the U.S. with routine childhood vaccination. Mumps reporting was re-established in Oregon July 1, 2006; prompted by outbreaks of illness among both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons. Nineteen cases of mumps were reported in 2006; 12 were residents of Lane County. The age of affected patients ranged from 4 to 69 years; the median age was 35 years.

Because as many as 20% of mumps infections are asymptomatic, and nearly 50% are associated with non-specific or primarily respiratory symptoms (with or without parotitis), mumps infections are significantly underreported.

In response to the 2006 nationwide mumps outbreak, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for prevention and control of mumps were updated with vaccination remaining the cornerstone of prevention.

Incidence of mumps by age and sex - Oregon, 2006

