



April 17, 2019

Dear School and/or Day Care Administrators:

Due to the increasing number of measles cases both in Michigan and nationwide, this letter is to alert you to the protocol that the Shiawassee County Health Department will be following in the event of a measles case within our county. Currently, there are no known measles cases in Shiawassee County. The Shiawassee County Health Department is committed to protecting our community from vaccine preventable diseases like measles (rubeola) and follows the Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Investigation Guidelines as established by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Measles is a highly contagious illness that can be passed to others through the air and by both direct and indirect contact. The measles virus will live in the air and on objects for 2 hours, infecting 90% of susceptible people even after the infected person has left the room. People usually develop symptoms 7-14 days after exposure, but it can take up to 21 days. The first sign of measles is usually a high fever, along with a runny nose, red eyes, cough and sore throat, and eventually a total-body rash. The disease can be passed to others from 4 days before the rash develops until 4 days after.

One case of measles in a school or daycare will prompt the health department to exclude those individuals, including staff and volunteers, who are not protected from measles either through vaccination or a previous history of having had the disease. This exclusion will last for 21 days after the last case has been identified, as that is the length of time it can take to develop symptoms after exposure to the virus.

Excluded individuals may return to school or daycare immediately if they receive their second required dose of MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine within 3 days of exposure or by providing documentation of immunity. Individuals are considered immune (protected) to measles if there is:

1. Documentation of age appropriate measles vaccination
 - Preschool age children > 12 months of age: One dose
 - School age children, adolescents and adults: Two doses

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2. Laboratory confirmation of a measles disease diagnosis
3. Serologic (lab) evidence of immunity to measles
4. Born before 1957 (considered immune by age)

Please note that an individual receiving their first measles-containing vaccine after they have been exposed will still be excluded for the entire 21-day period. For more information or questions regarding the measles, please see our website at <http://health.shiawassee.net/News/Michigan-Measles-Outbreak.aspx>.

We understand the educational and practical challenges of children missing school for several weeks and therefore encourage all families to consider vaccination before exclusion becomes necessary as a disease control measure. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing disease. For more information on where to receive MMR vaccination, please contact your healthcare provider or contact the Shiawassee County Health Department at 989-743-2356.

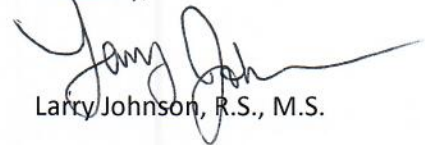
Sincerely,



Dennis Chernin, M.D., M.P.H.

Medical Director

Sincerely,



Larry Johnson, R.S., M.S.

Health Director



Guidelines for Schools and Daycares Regarding Exclusion of Unvaccinated and Under-vaccinated Students - Measles

Period of Communicability:

Up to 4 days before and 4 days after onset of rash (count the day of rash onset as day zero). Measles is considered one of the most infectious diseases in the world. It is spread through the air when an infected person breathes, talks, sneezes or coughs, as well as by close personal contact. About 9 out of 10 susceptible (unvaccinated or non-immune) individuals who are exposed to measles will come down with the disease. The measles virus can stay active in the air for up to 2 hours after an infected person has left the room.

Contact Follow Up/Prophylaxis:

Children, staff or volunteers with a **probable or confirmed** case of measles must be excluded from school for at least 4 days after onset of rash (count the day of rash onset as day zero).

A **single** case of **confirmed** measles in a school, daycare or group setting will require the exclusion of all susceptible (under-vaccinated, waived or non-immune) individuals, including staff and volunteers, for 21 days past the date of rash onset/date of known exposure in the last case.

- In general, under-vaccinated individuals who receive a required 2nd dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine may be readmitted to the activity setting if they receive it within 3 days of initial exposure to measles.
- Immune globulin (IG) is also effective at preventing disease or serious complications if given within 6 days of exposure.

Individuals are considered immune (protected against) measles **only** if they meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Born before 1957 (considered immune based on age)
- Laboratory confirmation of measles diagnosis
- Evidence of immunity to measles (titer)
- Documentation of receipt of 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine administered at least 28 days apart (1 dose is acceptable for children under 4 years of age).

Persons who are severely immunocompromised, undergoing chemotherapy or susceptible pregnant women should consult their private provider to determine need for post-exposure prophylaxis as well as any further exclusion measures.

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Additional factors such as immune status, intense or prolonged contact, and presence of vulnerable persons at risk, will be taken into consideration before allowing a person to return, as these factors may decrease the effectiveness of prophylaxis or increase the risk of disease and complications depending on the setting to which they are returning.

If you have additional questions about exclusions or want to report a case of illness, please call the SCHED at 989-743-2356.