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January 29, 2019

Dear School and Children's Facility Administrators, Nurses, and Staff,

Due to the current measles outbreak investigation in Clark County, Washington, we've received numerous questions about the local county public health response in schools. Below, you'll find a list of standard procedures related to communicable disease in educational and childcare settings. We'd like to remind everyone that there are **currently no confirmed cases of measles in Marion County.**

Here are the key points to keep in mind:

- Measles is highly contagious. A single case in a school or childcare facility will prompt a review of staff and student vaccination records to determine risk of further spread.
- Your facility can prepare by designating a person who will communicate with public health, especially in the 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 has a confirmed exposure to measles, they will be required to stay home from school or childcare during the time 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 vaccine 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 and facility 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,

Christopher Cirino, DO, MPH
Marion County Public Health Officer



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 saliva 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 if they need additional care to avoid exposing others to the virus.
- A person is considered immune to measles if:
 - They are a pre-school age child at least 1 year old with one measles vaccine (MMR -measles mumps, rubella)
 - They are a school-age child currently in grade K or higher, or an adult who has had two measles vaccines (MMR - measles, mumps, rubella).
 - They were born before 1957.
 - They have had measles disease (diagnosed by a health care provider and confirmed with a lab test).
 - They have had a blood test that shows they 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:
 - Marion County Health & Human Services, 503-588-5621
- For additional information:
 - Visit the Marion County Health & Human Services webpage:
www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/Pages/Measles.aspx
 - Call 2-1-1 for the latest information about measles from the Oregon Health Authority