



Erie County
Department of
Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH, FAAP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

PREPARING FOR MEASLES

March 19, 2025

Dear School Administrator:

Measles cases and outbreaks are increasing in the United States and Canada. In 2025 to date, 301 measles cases have been reported in the U.S., including 4 in New York State. Additionally, in Ontario, Canada, 318 measles cases have been reported in 2025 as of March 12th. Most measles cases in the U.S. and Canada are occurring in persons under 20 years old who are unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status.

Measles is a highly contagious virus. Most people who are vaccinated with 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine are protected from measles and should not become ill. Individuals who are not immune are at risk of developing disease.

To prevent the spread of infection, it is critical that you ensure that students and staff are immune to measles. We request your assistance in helping to avoid a measles outbreak in your school.

Please consider the following New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) recommendations:

- **Review immunization records of all your students** and make sure that all children are in compliance with state immunization requirements (1 dose of MMR vaccine for daycare students aged ≥ 12 months and pre-K students, and 2 doses of MMR vaccine for students in grades K-12), unless they have other presumptive evidence of measles immunity, which includes laboratory evidence of immunity (measles IgG antibody) or laboratory confirmation of disease.
- **Strongly encourage that all staff know their measles immune status.** If staff are unsure of their immune status, they should contact their healthcare providers to determine if they are immune to measles. That can include documentation of MMR immunization, laboratory evidence of immunity (measles IgG antibody) or laboratory confirmation of disease. MMR vaccines are available for adults at most pharmacies. People born before 1957 are considered immune to measles.
- If a measles exposure occurs in your school, all students and staff (born after 1956) who cannot demonstrate written proof of immunity may need to be excluded from school through 21 days after their most recent exposure to an infectious individual.

If you learn of a student or staff member with measles in your school, **immediately contact the Erie County Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance at (716) 858-7697**, so we can ensure that control measures to limit measles spread are implemented.

Your help ensuring that students and staff are immune to measles and that proper outbreak control measures are taken is critical in preventing the spread of measles in our community.

Please contact us with questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP
Commissioner of Health

Lisa Chimera
Deputy County Executive

Resources: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles/>