

November 16, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**There is a measles outbreak in central Ohio among unvaccinated people.**

**Measles is extremely contagious – and it is preventable.**

If exposed to measles, 90% of unvaccinated individuals will develop the disease. The MMR vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing measles – and it does not cause autism. One dose of MMR vaccine is 93% effective, and two doses are 97% effective at preventing measles.

**Measles is a serious disease that can cause complications – and death.**

30% of people get complications – and one of every five people are hospitalized. Death from measles occurs in one to two people per 1,000 cases in the U.S. People at the greatest risk for severe illness and complications are children younger than 5, adults older than 20, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems.

**Complications of measles can be serious and include:**

- Ear infections
- Pneumonia -- the most common cause of death from measles in young children
- Encephalitis (swelling of the brain)
- Seizures
- Premature or low-birth-weight baby
- Death

**If someone at your school gets measles, your child may not be allowed to come to school.**

Staff or students with measles will be excluded from school until four days have passed since they got a rash. A person without evidence of measles immunity can be ***excluded from school until 21 days after the beginning of a rash in the last person with measles.***

**Anyone who has never received MMR vaccine is at high risk of measles and should be vaccinated at:**

- Your family doctor or health care provider
- Nationwide Children's Hospital Primary Care Centers - (614) 722-6200
- Columbus Public Health - (614) 645-7945
- Franklin County Public Health - (614) 525-3719
- A retail pharmacy or clinic

I urge you to learn more about measles at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles> -- and to protect your child as soon as possible with an MMR vaccine.

Best of Health,

Mysheika W. Roberts  
Health Commissioner

