

[Date]

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that a person diagnosed with measles was present at *[your child's school]* on *[dates]*. Measles is a viral infection that spreads through coughing and sneezing. It is very contagious, but most school-aged children who are fully vaccinated with two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine are protected from measles. However, 3 in 100 people who have received two doses of MMR vaccine will still get measles if exposed to the virus. Therefore, we want to provide you with information about measles, and the signs and symptoms to look for in your child.

Usually about 7-14 days (but up to 21 days) after exposure, measles begins with a cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a fever. About 3-5 days later, a red blotchy rash appears, usually first on the face, along the hairline and behind the ears. The rash rapidly spreads downward to the chest and back and, finally, to the thighs and feet. Measles is contagious up to 4 days prior to rash onset and 4 days after rash onset.

Most students with measles are sick enough that they miss at least a week of school. One in 5 people infected with measles will need to be in the hospital. Serious, even life-threatening complications such as pneumonia and brain swelling can occur from measles infection.

In Ohio, two doses of measles vaccine are required for all pupils in grades K – 12. MMR vaccine is effective and safe. MMR vaccines are available from healthcare providers, some urgent cares (call first), and Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County, you may call (937) 225-4550 to schedule an appointment.

**All children without documentation of two doses of measles vaccine are required to be immediately excluded from school.**

- **For students with zero doses of measles vaccine-** If the student receives one documented dose of MMR within 72 hours after their initial exposure to the case-patient, they may return to school immediately. A second dose of MMR will need to be given 28 days later. Unvaccinated students (zero doses) who do not receive a dose of MMR within 72 hours, including those who have a medical or other exemption to vaccination, must be excluded from school through 21 days after the onset of the last known case in the school building.
- **For students with one dose of measles vaccine-** If the student receives a second documented dose of MMR at any time, they may return to school immediately upon receipt of documentation of the second dose.

**All parents should monitor their child for signs and symptoms of measles for the next 21 days. If your child develops an illness with fever (100.5°F or more), cough, runny nose, or red eyes, with or without rash, immediately call your doctor and let them know about your child's exposure and symptoms so that they can tell you what to do next. Your doctor can make special arrangements to evaluate your child, if needed, without putting other patients and medical office staff at risk. If you have any questions call Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County at (937) 225-5991.**

Sincerely,