

MEASLES UPDATE

The following is a summary with new and ongoing information with respect to the measles outbreak from the Ocean County Health Department.

- There are now six confirmed measles cases.
- There are also seven potential cases under investigation.
- With respect to schools, there is no automatic exclusion for non-immunized children. Vaccination is encouraged and those children involved with a confirmed case may be subject to an order of exclusion (guidance letter attached).
- People are reminded to check their immunization records and if there is any sign of symptoms to contact your healthcare provider prior to showing up at that providers office so that appropriate arrangements can be made for examination or treatment.
- The potential for spreading infection exists four days prior and four days after a measles rash.
- People can become ill from measles from 5 to 21 days after being exposed to the virus.
- Measles-like symptoms include fever, rash, runny nose, cough, loss of appetite and pink eye.
- Measles can spread through coughing and sneezing and can live on surfaces and in the air for up to two hours.

To obtain additional information, please visit our website at the Ocean County Health Department's website at www.ochd.org. Also, please check out our new website at www.phu2.org, to access and learn more about our Public Health is You Too! campaign to help equip you to take simple steps to improve your health.

XXX

Daniel E. Regenye, MHA
Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer

Email: Dregenye@ochd.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

OCEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 2191
Toms River, N.J. 08754-2191
(732) 341-9700 ext. 7201
Fax: (732) 831-6495
www.ochd.org

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SCHOOL EXCLUSION GUIDANCE

In an effort to provide current and accurate public health guidance associated with the measles outbreak impacting Ocean County and to clarify information circulating in the community, outlined herein is an overview of recommendations regarding school exclusion at this time.

- Unvaccinated students are NOT indicated for exclusion unless determined by the local health department. Specifically, unvaccinated students should not be excluded unless public health authorities are consulted. **Public health authorities will require the exclusion of unvaccinated students and staff in the event a case (or unvaccinated contact) of measles attends the school while infectious.** Public health officials will notify both the individual and school of this exclusion and determine the appropriate length of time for the exclusion. For more information, please visit https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/measles/measles_guidance_schools.pdf
- The New Jersey Department of Health generally does not recommend school closures. The decision by school administrators to close a school is an administrative decision and one that should be made only after consultation with public health officials and district medical personnel.

Additionally, there is a role schools can play to help respond to measles in the community:

- Check immunization records--the New Jersey Immunization of Pupils in School rules from the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4) states the children attending child care/preschool are required to receive one dose of MMR by fifteen months of age. Children attending K-12, are required to receive two doses of measles, one dose of mumps, and one dose of rubella. For more information on NJ's school immunization requirements, please visit https://nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/
- Be able to quickly identify any students and staff who are not up-to-date on their MMR vaccines in the event a case of measles is identified in the school.
- Encourage healthy habits among students and staff: get vaccinated, wash your hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, avoid sharing water bottles or items contaminated by saliva, and stay home when sick.

November 7, 2018

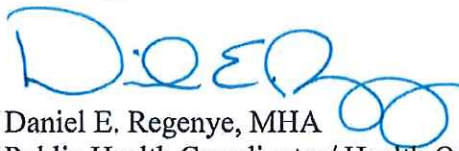
Page 2

- Immediately report suspect and confirmed cases of measles to the local health department where the student/staff member resides.

The Ocean County Health Department is working closely with the New Jersey Department of Health, local clinicians, and schools to provide up-to-date information and guidance and to ensure that all the proper Public Health measures are put in place.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact the Ocean County Health Department.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Regenye, MHA
Public Health Coordinator/ Health Officer

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