



COLLIN COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Epidemiology and Surveillance

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Health Advisory

January 12, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to notify the school community that there has been one (1) **confirmed** case of measles at Schell Elementary. We are currently reviewing individual exposure status, although anyone at the school on January 5, 2016 could have had exposure to the case.

Measles is highly contagious and is transmitted primarily from person to person by respiratory droplets and airborne spread. Patients are contagious from four days before onset of rash to four days after appearance of rash. Symptoms of measles include rash, fever $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$, cough, runny nose, or eye redness. Any person suspected of having measles should contact their health care provider and stay at home until four days after rash onset has passed.

Measles contacts, even vaccinated contacts, should monitor themselves for measles symptoms from day 5 after first exposure through day 21 after last exposure (day of exposure is day 0). Contacts should be instructed to isolate themselves immediately if measles symptoms develop and notify the health department.

Those with weakened immune systems and children/staff members who are unvaccinated are at higher risk of complications from measles. Susceptible, unimmunized persons and partially immunized persons (i.e. persons who had received only one prior dose of MMR) who continue to refuse the recommended measles vaccination(s) following exposure to measles are asked to stay home from school, child care settings, and group settings until 21 days after rash onset in the last cases of measles. Their healthcare providers should be notified as soon as possible that they were exposed to measles.

All staff that cannot provide adequate evidence of immunity should be vaccinated, regardless of exposure status. A first dose should be given to those who are unvaccinated. Recommend a second MMR to persons who have previously received only one MMR as long as 28 days have passed since the first dose.

If you experience or have experienced measles symptoms, or if you have questions, please contact your healthcare provider immediately. Measles is a very contagious airborne disease. If you develop symptoms and decide you want to be seen at your doctor's office or at a healthcare facility such as an emergency department or emergency clinic, **PLEASE CALL THEM FIRST** and inform them you were possibly exposed to measles. Please take this letter with you, so you will be properly evaluated upon arrival. If you have any questions please contact our office at 972-548-5596.

Thank you,

Collin County Health Care Services