



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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Dear School or Child Care Administrator:

The Texas Department of State Health Services has been notified of 20 cases of confirmed measles in residents from in North Texas. Measles is highly contagious and is transmitted primarily from person to person by respiratory droplets and airborne spread. The incubation period is about two weeks (range of 7 - 18 days) from exposure to onset of fever. Persons 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.

Two doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine are recommended for everyone born after 1957. The first dose should be administered at 12 months of age and the second at four to six years of age. We request your assistance in helping to avoid an outbreak at your school. It is imperative that your school carry out the following recommendations:

- Review immunization records of all your students and make sure all children are in compliance with state immunization requirements (1 dose of MMR for childcare and pre-K and 2 doses of MMR for grades K through 12). Students who are not in compliance should not attend school.
- In accordance with the Communicable Disease Control Measures in Texas, if a student(s) in your school develops measles, all students in your school who are not immunized with MMR should be excluded for at least two weeks after last rash onset.
- ***Immediately report any suspected cases to the local health department or call 800-705-8868.***

In an outbreak situation MMR vaccine is recommended for the following potentially exposed groups:

- Exposed persons (6 months and older) without evidence of immunity to measles –administer MMR vaccine within three days of exposure
- Preschool-aged children (1-4 years) or adults who have received one MMR dose – a second dose should be considered
- Adults born before 1957 and are reasonably sure they have never been vaccinated or had disease
- Healthcare workers/ volunteers or those in contact with children under the age of 5 with no vaccine documentation or no lab evidence of disease/immunity
- Persons infected with HIV who are ≥ 12 months of age and who do not have evidence of current severe immunosuppression
- Perinatal HIV-infected individuals who were vaccinated before establishment of effective antiretroviral therapy (ART)

Immunoglobulin (IG) is recommended for the following potentially exposed groups:

- Infants aged <12 months. For infants aged 6 through 11 months, MMR vaccine can be administered in place of IG if administered within 72 hours of exposure
- Severely immunocompromised persons
- Pregnant women without evidence of measles immunity

Your help ensuring that students and employees are vaccinated and that proper outbreak control measures are taken is critical in preventing the spread of measles. Please contact us with any questions at 1-800-252-9152. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saroj Rai".

Saroj Rai, Ph.D.
Immunization Branch Manager
Texas Department of State Health Services