

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

MEASLES INFORMATION FOR CHILDCARE AND SCHOOLS

Central District Health Department Asks Schools and Childcare Facilities to Prepare for Possible Measles Cases

February 20, 2015

Central District Health Department (CDHD) encourages school and childcare administrators to review vaccine-preventable disease exclusion policies and communication protocols in the event measles is diagnosed in their facility.

There are currently no reported cases of measles in Idaho; however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 141 cases among 17 states in 2015, including neighboring Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

The measles virus is highly contagious and can be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, sore throat, and a rash that spreads all over the body. Measles infection can also lead to secondary illnesses such as pneumonia or swelling of the brain which can cause death. It is recommended that the first dose of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine be given at age 12 through 15 months and the second dose given at age 4 through 6 years.

Immunization Records and Measles Exclusions

In Idaho, schools and licensed daycare facilities are required to keep copies of their attendees' immunization record or a vaccine exemption form. These records are required for attendance and should be kept up-to-date. Schools and public health agencies have the authority to exclude pupils with certain diseases as well as non-immune children. These children *must* be excluded:

- a child diagnosed with measles, who attends the school or licensed daycare
- a child that does not have evidence of immunity in the event of a case of measles in the daycare or school (A susceptible child will be excluded 21 days after the last case of measles in the facility. This is the last day of the incubation period, the time when the symptoms may begin.)

Evidence of immunity to measles: A child is considered susceptible to measles unless the child has at least one of the following, :

- Documentation of up to date MMR vaccine. (Children 12 months to pre-kindergarten should have one dose and school children kindergarten through grade 12 should have two doses.)

- Documentation of immunity to measles (a blood test result that is positive for measles immunity).
- Laboratory confirmation of prior measles disease.

Be Prepared For a Case of Measles

Before a case of measles is reported in Idaho, CDHD encourages you to:

- review your records to identify which children would be excluded in the case of a reported measles infection in your facility
- communicate with parents and staff about measles and the exclusion policies
- identify any staff, faculty, or volunteers working in your facility that might be susceptible to measles, and inform them that they may be at risk of disease if a case is diagnosed. They may wish to discuss vaccination with their healthcare provider. Exclusion of susceptible staff or volunteers in the event of a case of measles in a facility is recommended. Adults are considered susceptible if they do not have evidence of immunity. (For adults this is at least one documented dose of MMR vaccine, documented laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of prior measles disease, or birth before 1957).)
- develop or revise communication protocols that can be implemented quickly to inform parents and students of exclusions if a case of measles occurs in your facility. If there is a measles case in a school or daycare, CDHD typically provides the facility with an initial letter for parents which is distributed through the facility's normal communication channels.

For questions and additional information, please contact Central District Health Communicable Disease at (208) 327-8625.

Links to Idaho Code and Administrative Rule Concerning Immunizations and Vaccine Preventable Diseases:

Immunization Requirements for Idaho School Children

<http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/0215.pdf>

Immunization Requirements for Children Attending Licensed Daycare Facilities in Idaho

<http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/0211.pdf>

Idaho Reportable Diseases

<http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/0210.pdf>

Idaho Statutes: Immunizations

Schools

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title39/T39CH48SECT39-4801.htm>

Daycare

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title39/T39CH11SECT39-1118.htm>

Idaho Statute: School District Authorities

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33CH5SECT33-512.htm>

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