

Measles Guidance for Schools

How can I prepare for an outbreak in my school?

- Ask for staff to be aware of their immunization status and locate any written documentation of vaccination or past illness. Ensure staff that do not have proof of immunity understand they will be excluded from school if they are exposed.
- Identify all susceptible students in your school before an outbreak occurs. Susceptible students include:
 - *Students who have no immunization record on file*
 - *Students with an immunization record, but without MMR vaccine documented*
 - *Students who have documented exemption to MMR vaccination*
- Work closely with local or regional health department staff for a collaborative response

When should children and staff be excluded from school?

The following are general guidelines for exclusion. All decisions to exclude children and staff should be made in consultation with your local health department.

- Exclude children and staff who have measles until they are no longer contagious (through four days after rash onset).
- Exclude exposed children and staff members who do not have *proof of immunity* through day 21 following the last exposure. Exclusion may have to be extended to 28 days if immunoglobulin is received as post-exposure prophylaxis.

When can children/staff return to school?

- A measles case may return to school on the fifth day after rash onset.
- A contact to measles may return to school after confirming they have proof of immunity.
- A contact may return to school following MMR vaccination if received within 72 hours of exposure.
- A contact who receives immunoglobulin as post exposure prophylaxis may return to school on the 29th day following exposure.

What is considered “proof of immunity?”

Individuals must have at least one of the following:

- Written documentation of one or more doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered on or after the first birthday for preschool-age children and adults not considered high risk
- Written documentation of two doses of measles-containing vaccine for school-age children and adults at high risk (including students at post-high school secondary educational institutions, health care personnel and international travelers)
- Documented positive Rubeola/Measles IgG
- Born before 1957
- Lab confirmation of disease

Are there any restrictions on individuals who were exposed, but have proof of immunity?

- Individuals with presumptive evidence of immunity do not need to quarantine and may attend school.
- Because the MMR vaccines are not 100% effective at preventing measles, these individuals (or their parent/guardian) should be educated on measles symptoms and instructed to call the health department should they develop any symptoms.

What will occur if one of my staff/students has measles or has been exposed to measles?

- Public health staff will:
 - *Interview the person with measles (or their parent/guardian if it is a child)*
 - *Identify all persons potentially exposed to measles*
 - *Offer post-exposure prophylaxis to those exposed*
 - *Provide guidance around exclusion from school/activities*
 - *Coordinate with school staff and administration around all of the above activities*

When and how should I communicate with parents/guardians and our school community?

- Parents/guardians of students who are susceptible to measles should be notified immediately by telephone. This should be done by (or in coordination with) public health staff.
- The wider school community can be notified of the situation by email/written letter.

Contact your local health department

<https://www.tn.gov/health.html>

<https://healthy.arkansas.gov/>

<https://msdh.ms.gov/>