



Measles Preparedness for Schools

Date: October 15, 2026

Public Health Message Type: ☐ Alert ☒ Advisory ☐ Update ☐ Information

Intended Audience: ☒ All public health partners ☐ Healthcare providers ☐ Infection preventionists
☒ Local health departments ☒ Schools/childcare centers ☐ ACOs
☐ Animal health professionals ☐ Other

Background:

- New Jersey has 2 confirmed measles cases in 2026 (1 in April, 1 in October).
- The US continues to experience a large [increase](#) in measles cases, including a large on-going outbreak in Pennsylvania.
- Increasing cases increases risk of measles exposures, both in NJ and in other states. NJDOH continues to be notified of NJ residents exposed to measles through domestic travel, on transit services, at healthcare facilities, etc.
- Measles can spread quickly in schools among unvaccinated individuals, because students and staff spend a lot of time in the same rooms together. Measles exposures can result in time out of school that disrupts learning.
- Vaccination remains the most reliable and effective tool for preventing measles. Two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine provide 97% protection against measles, and one dose provides 93% protection.

Key messages:

- Attached to this message is a new resource [Measles Preparedness for Schools](#), a checklist that outlines actionable steps schools can take to prepare for measles. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the existing school guidance document, [Measles: Preventing the Spread in Child Care and School Settings](#). Schools play a trusted role in their communities, and proactive planning can help protect students, staff, and the broader school community while minimizing disruptions to learning if a case does occur.
- Maintain current records of student vaccination status. All enrolled children must have documented evidence of immunity for measles, or a valid exemption, per [NJ Immunization Requirements](#). Remind parents to check that their child is up to date on all recommended vaccinations, including the MMR vaccine. Vaccination is the best protection against measles and helps prevent illness and disruptions to learning. Advise parents to consult child's health care provider regarding immunity questions or concerns. Inform families of unvaccinated children that they may need to stay home for up to 21 days each time they are near someone who has measles.



- Remind your staff of the importance of being protected against measles, and the importance of having documented [evidence of immunity](#). For NJ residents, you can request your immunization record through [NJ Immunization System \(NJIIS\)](#). If you lived in another state, you may be in their registry: [Contacts for Immunization Information System \(IIS\)](#). Encourage staff to locate **documentation** of evidence of immunity to measles, and to receive MMR vaccine if they do not have documented immunity. If exposed to measles, individuals without documented evidence of immunity will be excluded and need to quarantine.
- Encourage staff to provide this documented evidence of immunity to measles, and develop a record of staff immune status, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with state and federal requirements.
- Keep all these records for students and staff organized and easily accessible to minimize disruption in the event of a measles exposure. For schools without an existing system for tracking immunization records, the CDC has provided a [Measles Immunity Records Template](#).
- In the event of a measles exposure, the school will need to identify all students and staff who were exposed. The school will need to provide this list to their LHD with corresponding evidence of immunity or exemptions for contact tracing purposes. During measles exposures events, the ability to rapidly identify susceptible individuals is essential for appropriate public health interventions such as postexposure prophylaxis or exclusion/quarantine.
- Exposed children and staff without documented evidence of immunity to measles, including those with valid exemptions to measles vaccine, will be excluded from school and need to quarantine for 21 days from last exposure.

Additional Resources:

[New Jersey Department of Health Measles Website](#)

[NJDOH Measles Exposure Information](#)

[NJDOH School Health](#)

[CDC Measles Checklist for K12 Schools](#)

[CDC Measles Checklist for Early Care and Education Centers](#)

[CDC Measles Checklist for Institutions of Higher Education](#)

[CDC Be Ready for Measles Toolkit](#)