

February 3, 2015

To the staff of the Clear Lake Community Schools:

With the increase in measles cases in the United States the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health is encouraging all adults to review their immunization records as well as records for their children. Currently there is an increase in measles cases in the United States, with confirmed cases in neighboring states such as Nebraska (2 cases), South Dakota (10 cases), Minnesota (1 case), and Illinois (1 case). Fortunately, at this time, there are **NO** cases of measles in Iowa, yet the risk remains high.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases and is spread through the air by droplets of respiratory secretions from an infected person. The measles virus can live in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours. Approximately 90% of individuals who are unvaccinated or have no natural immunity to the disease will contract the illness if they have close contact with an infected person. With no treatment currently available prevention of this disease is crucial.

MMR Vaccine Recommendations:

* Children: 2 doses
  + - * First dose – 12-15 months of age
* Some infants younger than 12 months of age should get a dose of MMR if they are traveling out of the country. If a child has received this dose in the past this does not count towards their primary series.
  + - * Second dose – 4-6 years of age
* Adolescents: 2 doses if the adolescent does not have proof of vaccination as a child

* Adults born in 1957 or later: Receive one dose or have proof of immunity (positive MMR titer)

School staff may elect to have 2 doses

* Adults born in 1956 or earlier: You are presumed to have had measles and are immune since

measles was so common back then, however school staff may

elect to have one dose

* Individuals who are unsure of their vaccination status or prior history of the measles should receive the recommended vaccines.

Our hope is that the measles does not become a concern in our area but would like staff to be prepared should a case be identified in your school. If a case of measles is identified in your school the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) will require all staff to provide proof of immunity to measles through either a documentation of vaccination, titer results, or history of the disease. Also, the IDPH will require any unvaccinated or non-immune students and/or staff to be excluded from school for a minimum of 15-30 days.

If you have any questions regarding your MMR vaccination status please contact your doctor’s office or call the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health at 641-421-9300.

Thank You!

Bethany Bjorklund RN, BSN

Immunization Nurse

Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health