



Notice to all Sonoma County Schools – Measles Outbreak in California

January 30, 2015

To: District Superintendents, and Public School Principals
Directors of Private Schools

From: Karen Milman, MD, MPH
Sonoma County Health Officer

California is experiencing an outbreak of measles. Although there have been no cases in Sonoma County, measles has been identified in people in the Bay Area including Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. Measles is very communicable and can be a very serious disease. Because the best way to prevent measles is to get vaccinated I am encouraging all parents to review their children's health records and ensure their children's vaccinations are up-to-date.

Should there be a case of measles in your school the Sonoma County Disease Control team will respond. Their response may include a variety of interventions including isolation of the person with measles, identification of people who were in contact with the measles patient ("contacts"), assessment of the contacts' immune status, vaccination of susceptible persons (if the time frame is appropriate) and requesting susceptible contacts stay home from school or work. Your school would need to work closely with the Disease Control during the response.

To protect our school communities and prepare for the possibility of a measles case and outbreak, I am requesting that all schools do the following:

1. Send a letter to parents with information about measles and requesting they ensure their children's vaccinations are up-to-date;
2. Keep current the list of students who are unimmunized or under immunized in the event there is a confirmed case at your school.
3. Report to Public health Disease Control any student who is absent for reasons of rash/fever. M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm 565-4567
4. Remind (adult) teachers, volunteers and staff that they should review their personal immunization records to ensure their own immunity to measles. Persons born prior to 1957 are considered immune as they likely had measles as children and developed natural immunity.

Your participation in this effort will help keep our community healthy and strong. If you have questions regarding immunization requirements please contact:

Emely Hernandez, Sr. PHN, Immunization Coordinator
IZNurse@sonoma-county.org or 565-4573

Thank you in advance for your efforts!