

May 10, 2019

Dear Families,

The health and well-being of New York City students, families, and staff is a top priority for the Department of Education, and we would like to share important information about two recent measles cases in public school students. These students did not attend school while infectious, and students have not been at risk of contracting measles while at school. We are sharing this information out of an abundance of caution and to remind you of our vaccination policy.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent measles. Anyone who has received two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is highly unlikely to get this infection. At this time, the risk to students in programs remains extremely low given the high rate of vaccination in students.

As a reminder, New York State Public Health Law and New York City Health Code require all students, except those with approved exemptions, to be vaccinated or show immunity to measles to attend programs. You can see the school immunization requirements at www.schools.nyc.gov/immunization, or visit www.nyc.gov and search “immunization requirements.”

Measles is a viral infection that causes fever and a rash. Complications from this infection include pneumonia, brain swelling, hospitalization, and potentially death. It is highly contagious and anyone who is not vaccinated against the virus can get it at any age. On April 9, the Health Commissioner ordered every adult and child who lives or works in ZIP codes 11205, 11206, 11211, and 11249 and has not received the MMR vaccine to be vaccinated.

We encourage you to make sure all family members are vaccinated against measles. If you are unsure about your child’s vaccination history, check with your child’s medical provider to confirm that they are appropriately vaccinated or immune to the measles. For information on where you or your child can be vaccinated, please call 311.

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