



FALL RIVER JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 5, 2015

Dear Fall River Joint Unified Parents and Guardians:

As the recent outbreak of measles becomes more prevalent, we would like to inform you of our district's position. **At this time, there have been NO cases of measles identified at your student's school. The following letter is intended to inform you of steps to take to protect your child from becoming infected with measles and what would occur if a case is identified at your child's school.** 92 cases of measles have been reported in California. These cases are linked to the California Disneyland measles outbreak. At the writing of this letter, there is a suspected case in Tehama County.

Measles is a very infectious disease that can spread quickly through the air. The Measles virus can survive in the air for several hours and may be transmitted to unvaccinated individuals even after the infected person has left the room.

Measles starts with a fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat. It is followed by a rash that starts on the head at the hairline and moves down the body. Complications such as pneumonia, ear infections and diarrhea can occur in about 30% of people infected and 1-2 in 1000 experience severe complications such as inflammation around the brain and even death.

What can you do?

- Make sure your student's immunizations are up to date. The MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine is safe and very effective in preventing measles infections. Two doses are routinely recommended for all children. Children should receive their first dose of MMR vaccine at 12-15 months of age and their second dose routinely at 4-6 years of age. If you are not sure if your student has received both doses, contact your health care provider as soon as possible. You may also contact the school district health clerk, Deanna Riddell, at 335-3957 to see if we have verification of your child's immunizations. If your child has not received their second MMR vaccine, it is highly recommended that you do so.
- **If your student has not received any doses of MMR and is exposed to measles, that information will be reported to the local health authority immediately. They will then determine whether the student is at risk of developing the disease and, if so, may require the exclusion of the pupil from that school until the completion of the incubation period, which is 21 day for Measles. (17 CCR§6060).**

For questions and concerns, or vaccination resources you can contact Shasta County Public Health at (530) 225-5591 or go to the following website:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx>

Sincerely,



Greg Hawkins, Superintendent



Stephanie Heringer, District Nurse