

# *Office of the District Nurse*

Oak Park Preparatory Academy, 23261 Scotia Rd., Oak Park, MI 48237



February 2024

## **RE: OAKLAND COUNTY NEW MEASLES CASE**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The State of Michigan has confirmed a case of measles in Oakland County. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect ourselves and our loved ones from potential outbreaks of diseases like measles. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is recommending unvaccinated individuals ages 1 year and older receive measles vaccination to protect themselves and those around them.

It is crucial to make sure our families are up to date on all routine vaccines to prevent the spread of severe illness and disease.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that can be prevented by vaccination and is transmitted by direct contact between people as well as the air.

The virus can remain in the air for up to two hours if an infected person is around.

Measles symptoms can develop up to 21 days after exposure, but they often start 7-14 days after exposure.

### **Symptoms may include:**

- High fever (which can escalate to beyond 104°F).
- Swollen nose.
- Watery, red eyes, or conjunctivitis.
- Koplik Spots, which are little white spots that appear two to three days after the onset of symptoms on the inner cheeks, gums, and roof of the mouth.
- Red, raised, blotchy rash that usually appears on the face and progresses three to five days after the onset of symptoms to the trunk, arms, and legs.

Parents are urged to ensure that their children have received all recommended childhood vaccinations, including the measles vaccine, due to the possibility of community transmission. Ninety percent of those who are not vaccinated against measles will contract the illness. Approximately one in five cases of measles will require hospitalization. Apart from the case in Michigan, there have been 35 cases of measles reported in 15 other states so far in 2024.

The measles vaccine is extremely effective and safe. Two doses of the measles vaccination are roughly 97% effective in preventing the disease, compared to a single dose's approximately 93% effectiveness. It also works well to prevent disease when taken within 72 hours after being exposed to the measles. Some people with compromised immune systems, however, might not be able to get this vaccination.

Vaccination can shield susceptible members of our communities from contracting this disease in addition to providing protection to the recipient.

For extra information on how to receive the vaccine and make an appointment, citizens of Michigan can visit their local health department, get in touch with their healthcare practitioner or contact their local pharmacies. Oakland County Health Department are accepting walk-in. Their address is 27725 Greenfield Road Southfield, MI 48706.

Please feel free to contact me at 248-342-9944 if you have any questions or concerns.

To learn more about the MMR vaccine, visit [Vaccine for Measles \(MMR Shot\) | CDC](#).

For more information about Measles cases in the U.S., visit [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | CDC](#).

Sincerely,

Dina Cohen, BSN, RN

District Nurse of Oak Park School District