



August 16, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In light of the recent measles outbreaks throughout the United States, the Defiance County Health Department is sending this notification to increase general awareness in the community about preventing measles. At this time, no measles cases have been associated with individuals residing in or traveling to Defiance County.

Measles is highly contagious. An individual with measles is likely to infect 90% of the people that they come in close contact with who have not been immunized. Measles can result in serious illness with possible complications including lung infection and permanent brain damage. Measles is especially dangerous for infants and young children, pregnant women, and individuals with a weakened immune system.

Vaccination with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best way to prevent measles. It is recommended that all children get two doses of the MMR vaccine, the first at 12-15 months of age and a booster at 4-6 years of age. Adults born after 1957 who have not been vaccinated are also recommended to be vaccinated with one dose of MMR.

All children in Ohio attending school are required to receive two doses of MMR vaccine, unless they have a valid exemption. If a case of measles is identified in a school, any child or staff member who is not immune to measles must be excluded from the school 21 days after the last case of measles. However, individuals may return to the school if they receive the MMR vaccine.

If you are unsure of your child's or your own vaccination status, please contact your primary care provider to determine if additional doses of the vaccine are recommended. For more information about measles, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/measles>.

Sincerely,

Stacy Lucas, BSN, RN

Stacy Lucas, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing
Defiance County Health Department