



## MEASLES INFORMATION LETTER TO PARENTS

August 26, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

With the current measles outbreak investigation in El Paso, Texas, we understand that parents in our area have questions about what can be done to keep children safe, and what their child's school will do if a case of measles is confirmed.

Measles is a viral infection that spreads through coughing and sneezing. It is very contagious, but most school-aged children who are fully vaccinated with two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine are protected from measles. However, 3 in 100 people who have received two doses of MMR vaccine will still get measles if exposed to the virus. Therefore, we want you to provide you with information about measles, and the signs and symptoms to look for in your child.

Usually about 8-12 days (but up to 21 days) after exposure, measles begins with a mild to moderate fever accompanied by cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Two or three days later, the fever spikes, often as high as 104-105°F. At the same time, a red blotchy rash appears, usually first on the face, along the hairline and behind the ears. The rash rapidly spreads downward to the chest and back and, finally, to the thighs and feet. If your child develops an illness with fever (101°F or more), cough, runny nose or red eyes, with or without rash, immediately call your doctor. Keep your child at home until the doctor has cleared him or her to return to school.

If a case is confirmed in a school, all parents/guardians will be informed. The El Paso City Health Department will be contacted immediately and they will review all staff and student vaccination records to determine the risk of further spread. Unvaccinated children, including those who have a medical or other exemption to vaccination, must be excluded from school up to 21 days after their most recent exposure.

El Paso City Health Department has requested for all school districts to take extra vigilant steps in the review of your students' immunization records, particularly as relates to measles and require all required measles immunizations prior to attending school.

**Now is a great time for all families to review their vaccine records and get their vaccines up to date. If your child is not in compliance with the MMR requirements, your child will not be allowed to attend school.**

We recommend that if your child is not in compliance that you contact your healthcare provider for immunization as soon as possible. If you do not have a healthcare provider, your child may receive the immunization at Immunize El Paso Eastside Clinic 1580 George Dieter, Ste 103 El Paso, TX 79936 Phone 915-857-2474

For further information on measles, <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health/current-events/measles-information>

Sincerely,

Fort Hancock Independent School District Technology Department