



Date: April 28, 2025

To: Ingham County Schools

From: Ingham County Health Department (IChD)

Subject: Advisory – Confirmed Measles Case in Ingham County & Prevention Guidance

Purpose of This Document

This advisory provides immediate guidance for schools in Ingham County following a confirmed case of measles in the community. Measles is highly contagious and can pose serious health risks while significantly disrupting educational environments. A single case is considered a public health emergency. We recognize that vaccination is a personal choice, and Michigan law permits medical, religious, and philosophical waivers. Our intention in providing this information is to promote the health and safety of all students and families through increased awareness and education. Vaccination remains the most effective means of protection.

Michigan Requirements

Per Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) immunization requirements:

- Two (2) doses of live measles-containing vaccine (MMR—Measles, Mumps, Rubella) are required for all students in grades K–12.
- Any student without documentation of two age-appropriate properly administered doses of MMR must be excluded from school if a measles case is confirmed in the school setting, regardless of exemption status, until documentation is provided.

2025 Measles Update

- [884 measles cases](#) reported nationwide so far in 2025
- **2 confirmed case in Ingham County (as of April 28)**
- Majority of cases linked to **unvaccinated children** in outbreaks in **Texas and New Mexico**
- [Updates on Measles in Michigan and the United States](#)

About Measles

Measles is Highly Contagious

- **Contagion:** Measles is the most contagious vaccine-preventable disease. A person with measles can spread the virus **4 days before and 4 days after** the rash appears.

- **Airborne/Droplets Transmission:** The virus spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can remain in the air for up to two hours, continuing to infect vulnerable individuals in the area.
- **9 out of 10 unvaccinated individuals** nearby will contract measles if exposed.

Actions for Schools to Take Now

1. Assess for Vaccination Rates

Create a list of students who do not have documentation of two MMR doses, including those with medical, religious, or philosophical waivers. These students may need to be excluded from school if a case of measles occurs, in order to monitor for symptoms

Communicate with these families to:

- Inform them that measles has been confirmed in the community
- Encourage MMR vaccination
- Explain state-mandated exclusion requirements

2. Share Immunization Information Broadly

We recognize that vaccination is a personal choice, and Michigan law permits medical, religious, and philosophical waivers. Our intention in providing this information is to promote the health and safety of all students and families through increased awareness and education. Inform all parents and staff about the importance of the MMR vaccine. According to the CDC:

- Two doses of MMR are 97% effective
- One dose is 93% effective

MMR vaccines are available through:

- Pediatric and primary care providers
- Urgent care centers (call ahead to confirm availability)
- Pharmacies (check age restrictions)
- [Ingham County Health Department](https://hd.ingham.org) – Visit <https://hd.ingham.org> for clinic hours

3. Promote Hygiene and Illness Prevention

- Teach and reinforce respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Encourage frequent handwashing (use sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable)
- Regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, desks, counters)

4. Encourage Sick Individuals to Stay Home

Students and staff should stay home if feeling unwell.

5. Recognize the Signs and Symptoms of Measles

Be alert for the following:

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red eyes
- Rash (typically appears 3–5 days after symptoms begin)

Designate a private area where symptomatic students can wait until picked up. **Families should call their healthcare provider before visiting to prevent further exposure.**

6. Report Suspected Cases Immediately

All suspected or confirmed measles cases must be reported immediately to the [Ingham County Health Department](#).

Phone: 517-887-4308 (After hours call 517-342-9987)

Fax: 517-887-4379

Confirmed Case of Measles:

1. Notify Public Health and the School Community

Immediately contact ICHD.

Communicable Disease Phone: 517-887-4308 (After hours call 517-342-9987)

Our staff will assist with:

- Case investigation
- Contact tracing
- Notifications to potentially exposed individuals

A customizable parent notification letter will be provided by Ingham County Health Department in the event of a confirmed measles case.

2. Isolate the Infected Individual

Infected students or staff must isolate at home and stay away from others and all public settings until four (4) days after the rash begins and they are medically cleared to return.

3. Exclude Unvaccinated Students

Any student without documentation of age-appropriate vaccination or two MMR doses must be excluded from:

- School
- Childcare
- Extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, events)

This is required under Michigan Administrative Rule 325.176, regardless of exemption status.

If the student has:

- **Zero MMR doses:**
 - May return if they receive the first dose within 72 hours of exposure. The second dose should follow after 28 days.
 - If not vaccinated within 72 hours, they must be excluded for 21 days after the last known measles case in the building.
- **One MMR dose:**
 - May return upon documentation of the second dose.
 - Susceptible contacts who had received one dose of MMR prior to the exposure and receive a second dose within 72 hours of exposure do not need to be excluded from group-activity settings.
 - If the second dose is received more than 72 hours after exposure, ICHD and school officials may choose to exclude the contact based on the contact's exposure setting (e.g., community or household) and the risk of transmission to others (e.g., daycare attendee).
- **Infants aged 6-11 months old** may receive a dose of MMR early. If the dose is received within 72 hours of exposure, they may return to childcare. The child will need to be vaccinated again according to the routine schedule (i.e., two additional doses, with the first between 12-15 months of age. All doses of MMR must be separated by at least 28 days.)

4. Monitor and Quarantine Exposed Individuals

- All exposed individuals (those who shared airspace with the infected person) should monitor for symptoms for 21 days.
- Individuals without proof of immunity may be required to quarantine at home, away from school and public spaces.

ICHD will determine quarantine needs based on each individual's risk, exposure, and health status.

For more information, refer to:

“Exposed to Measles? What You Need to Know” (available through MDHHS and CDC).

MMR Vaccination Guidance

The **MMR vaccine is safe, highly effective, and provides lifelong protection:**

- 1 dose: ~93% effective
- 2 doses: ~97% effective
- No booster needed after two documented doses

The MMR vaccine does [NOT cause autism](#). The protection conferred is lifelong and administering booster doses is not only [unnecessary](#) for persons who received two MMR doses but could also contribute to vaccine shortage.

| Circumstance | Recommendation |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Born before 1957 | No vaccine needed; presumed immune |
| Vaccinated 1963–1967 | May need 2nd dose if inactivated vaccine was used |

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Received 1 dose before 1989 | 2nd dose recommended for healthcare workers, students, international travelers |
| Born in or after 1989 | Two doses (MMR or MMRV) required |

Contact Information:

Ingham County Health Department

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Thank you for your continued collaboration in safeguarding public health in Ingham County. Please reach out with any questions or for additional support. This guidance may be updated or changed as new information becomes available.