

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
and Immunization Section**

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[www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health)

May 20, 2023

Dear Aki Kurose Middle School Students, Parents, and Staff:

A person who was contagious with measles was at school on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, before they knew they were infected. If you or your child were at school on these dates, you or your child might have been exposed to measles.

Measles symptoms to watch for include fever, rash, cough, and red, watery eyes. It can lead to more serious health problems, such as pneumonia or miscarriages. It can lead to hospitalization, and in rare cases, it can be fatal. If you have received this letter and you are pregnant or have a weakened immune system, we recommend you talk with your healthcare provider as soon as possible. See the attached fact sheet for more information.

**ANYONE WHO WAS EXPOSED TO MEASLES AND DOES NOT HAVE IMMUNITY MUST STAY HOME**

Measles spreads very easily through the air. People with measles are contagious before they have any signs or symptoms and can spread it to others without knowing it. It is important to prevent the spread of measles to students, staff, and their families.

When there is a measles exposure at a school, Public Health – Seattle & King County requires everyone at the school to show documentation of measles immunity from before they were exposed, in accordance with Washington state law.

**Anyone who does not have documentation of measles immunity must stay home from Aki Kurose and all other childcare, schools, and avoid public places from Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.** We know this places a burden on you, but it is necessary to protect the health of the community, especially those who may be more vulnerable to measles, such as young children, pregnant women, and anyone with a weakened immune system. We appreciate your cooperation in following these requirements.

**HOW YOU CAN DOCUMENT IMMUNITY TO MEASLES**

If your child already has a Certificate of Immunization (CIS) with two valid measles (MMR) immunization dates with a parent's signature on file at your school, they can continue to attend school.

Children that do not have a Certificate of Immunization on file (as described above) and school staff must show immunity to measles through any of the following:

- 1) Date of birth before 1957
- 2) A record that you/your child were vaccinated with MMR or MMRV. This means documentation from a licensed healthcare provider with dates of receipt:
  - One dose for children 12 months–3 years old
  - Two doses for students 4 years and older (kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

(continued)

- One dose for most adults (two doses for healthcare providers such as school nurses)  
Note: MMR vaccine received between 1963-1967 is not valid because it did not use live measles virus.
- 3) Laboratory confirmation documenting that you've had measles and fully recovered.
  - 4) Laboratory evidence from a blood test (serology) that shows measles immunity.

Once you provide the school with one of these forms of documentation, verified by a healthcare provider, you or your child may return to school. If you need help finding a health care provider or if you don't have health insurance, call the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 or visit [ParentHelp123.org](http://ParentHelp123.org).

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN KEPT OUT OF SCHOOL:**

- Students who have no documentation of immunity must stay home from Aki Kurose, after-school activities, and all other childcare, schools, and public places through June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
- Students with documentation that they got one dose of MMR/MMRV vaccine *prior* to May 11, 2023, will be allowed to return after they provide documentation of a second dose of vaccine, or they must stay home through June 2, 2023, if they don't get a second dose.
- Staff without documentation of immunity *prior* to May 11, 2023, must stay home through June 2, 2023, even if they receive a dose of vaccine after the exposure. (Note: A dose of MMR vaccine with documentation from a licensed healthcare provider can prevent *future* exclusion from school)

**If another case occurs at the school, we will extend the stay-at-home period for anyone who does not have documentation of immunity. All people who have not received the recommended doses of vaccine should get vaccinated after the stay-at-home period has ended.**

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS**

Watch for the symptoms of measles until June 2, 2023, even if you have documented immunity to measles. If you notice symptoms of measles, call your health care provider *before* visiting the medical office. Tell them you have been exposed to measles and could be contagious. They will need this information to get you medical care as quickly as possible and prevent exposing other patients to the measles.

If you have additional questions, please contact your health care provider, your school, or Public Health at 206-296-4774 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Additional information about measles can be found at [www.kingcounty.gov/measles](http://www.kingcounty.gov/measles)

Sincerely,

Eileen Benoiel  
Communicable Disease Program Manager  
Public Health – Seattle & King County Communicable Disease & Immunization Section