

MEASLES PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of students, employees, volunteers, and visitors by preventing the spread of measles and establishing clear procedures for identifying, reporting, and responding to suspected or confirmed cases and exposures.

This policy will be implemented in accordance with applicable state and local public health requirements and school immunization laws.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, substitute employees, volunteers, contractors, and visitors who enter school facilities or participate in school-sponsored activities, including field trips, athletics, extracurricular programs, and off-campus events.

3. Prevention and Immunization Records

1. The school will maintain current immunization records and applicable exemption documentation in accordance with Oklahoma law.
2. Parents and guardians will provide required immunization documentation before school attendance, as applicable under state law.
3. The school will maintain readily accessible records of students' measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination status or other recognized evidence of immunity, subject to privacy requirements.
4. Staff members are encouraged to verify their measles immunity through vaccination records, laboratory evidence of immunity, or other accepted documentation.
5. The school will provide families and employees with educational information regarding measles symptoms, transmission, vaccination, and prevention.
6. Personal medical information will be maintained confidentially and shared only with authorized individuals or public health officials as permitted by law.

4. Recognition of Measles Symptoms

Measles symptoms may include:

- High fever.
- Cough.

- Runny nose.
- Red or watery eyes.
- A rash that commonly begins on the face and spreads to the body.

Symptoms typically develop 7–21 days after exposure. An individual with measles may be contagious from four days before the rash appears through four days after rash onset.

School personnel will not attempt to diagnose measles. Any suspected case will be treated as a potential public health concern and promptly referred to the appropriate health authorities.

5. Procedures for Suspected Measles

If a student or employee develops symptoms consistent with measles and measles is suspected:

1. **Separate the individual:** Move the individual away from others to a designated, private area while minimizing contact with students and staff.
2. **Notify the administrator:** Immediately notify the school principal, designated administrator, or school nurse.
3. **Arrange safe departure:** Contact the parent or guardian to arrange prompt pickup for a student. Employees will leave the premises as directed.
4. **Contact public health officials:** Immediately contact the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Epidemiologist-on-Call at **405-426-8710**, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as directed by Oklahoma school guidance.
5. **Protect others:** Avoid unnecessary movement through the building. Do not send the individual to a crowded waiting area or permit attendance at school activities.
6. **Advise the family:** Instruct the parent or guardian to contact a healthcare provider before arriving at a medical facility so appropriate precautions can be arranged.
7. **Document the incident:** Record relevant dates, locations, symptoms reported, notifications, and actions taken, while protecting confidential information.

The school will follow public health instructions regarding reporting, isolation, exposure investigation, cleaning, and other protective measures.

6. Exclusion and Return to School

A. Individuals with suspected or confirmed measles

A student or employee with suspected measles will remain excluded from school until cleared by the appropriate healthcare provider and/or public health authority.

For confirmed measles, the individual will generally remain excluded until no longer contagious, typically through the fourth day after rash onset, with rash onset considered Day 0. Individuals who are severely immunocompromised may require a longer exclusion period.

Written clearance or other documentation must be obtained when required by public health officials or applicable school procedures.

B. Individuals exposed to measles

When a measles exposure is identified, the school will work with OSDH or the local health department to determine who was exposed and whether exclusion is required.

- Individuals without accepted evidence of immunity may be excluded from school and school-sponsored activities for 21 days after their last exposure, as directed by public health officials.
- Exclusion periods may be extended if additional exposures occur.
- Individuals with documented immunity will follow applicable public health instructions and monitor for symptoms.
- Public health officials may recommend or authorize different measures based on vaccination history, timing of exposure, post-exposure prophylaxis, and individual circumstances.

The school will not independently override an exclusion directive issued by the appropriate public health authority.

7. Response to a Confirmed School Exposure

Upon notification of a confirmed case associated with the school, the administration will:

1. Notify OSDH or the local health department immediately.
2. Cooperate with the investigation to identify potentially exposed students, employees, volunteers, and visitors.
3. Review attendance records, classroom assignments, transportation records, and extracurricular activity participation as needed.
4. Provide public health officials with relevant vaccination and immunity documentation through appropriate secure channels.

5. Follow public health recommendations regarding exclusion, symptom monitoring, vaccination, and other preventive measures.
6. Notify affected families and employees using accurate, timely, and confidential communications.
7. Maintain records of exposure assessments, communications, exclusions, and return-to-school decisions.

Because measles can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infectious person leaves an area, the school will consult public health officials about potentially affected rooms and shared spaces.

8. Parent and Staff Notification

The school administrator or designated spokesperson will coordinate communications with public health officials.

Notifications will:

- Explain that a possible or confirmed exposure has occurred, when disclosure is authorized and appropriate.
- Identify the relevant exposure dates and locations when confirmed by public health officials.
- Describe symptoms to monitor and actions families should take.
- Explain any recommended testing, vaccination, or exclusion measures.
- Provide contact information for the school and appropriate public health agency.
- Protect the identity and medical privacy of the affected individual, except where disclosure is legally authorized or required.

Rumors, unverified information, and identifying medical details will not be distributed.

9. Cleaning and Environmental Measures

The school will consult public health officials regarding the appropriate response to rooms and spaces occupied by an infectious individual.

The school will:

1. Restrict access to affected areas when directed by public health officials.

2. Follow applicable ventilation, air-clearance, and cleaning recommendations before reoccupying affected spaces.
3. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces.
4. Maintain appropriate handwashing and respiratory hygiene practices.

Routine surface disinfection alone is not sufficient to prevent measles transmission because the virus can remain infectious in the air.

10. Attendance, Educational Continuity, and Employment

The school will handle absences related to measles illness or public health exclusion in accordance with applicable attendance laws, district procedures, employment policies, and public health directives.

Where feasible, the school will provide reasonable educational continuity for excluded students and communicate with affected families regarding assignments and academic support.

Employee leave and work restrictions will be managed in accordance with applicable law and school employment policies.

11. Responsibilities

School Administrator

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Coordinate reporting, communications, and response activities.
- Ensure compliance with public health directives.

School Nurse or Designated Health Personnel

- Maintain immunization documentation as assigned.
- Recognize and promptly report suspected cases.
- Assist with exposure assessments and confidential health communications.

Teachers and School Staff

- Report suspected symptoms promptly.
- Follow separation, notification, and infection-prevention procedures.
- Maintain student privacy.

Parents and Guardians

- Provide required immunization documentation.
- Keep children home when measles is suspected or when exclusion is required.
- Notify the school of a confirmed diagnosis or relevant exposure, consistent with applicable reporting requirements.
- Follow healthcare provider and public health instructions.

Students and Employees

- Follow school illness-reporting procedures.
- Cooperate with applicable exclusion and monitoring instructions.
- Avoid school attendance while subject to an exclusion directive.

12. Confidentiality and Recordkeeping

All medical information and exposure records will be maintained securely and disclosed only as permitted or required by law.

The school will retain records of incidents, public health communications, exposure notifications, and exclusion decisions in accordance with applicable records-retention requirements.