



Office of Pupil Personnel Services

Nicole Triassi, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Kristine Schinella, Supervisor of Special Education
Heather Carpentieri, CPSE/CSE Chairperson

November 26, 2018

Dear Cornwall CSD Families,

I am writing to inform you that there is currently a measles outbreak in the lower Hudson Valley. At this time, there have been over 75 confirmed cases in Rockland County, mostly affecting Orthodox Jewish Residents in New Square, Monsey, and Spring Valley. However, over the Thanksgiving recess, a case of the measles was also confirmed in an Orange County infant. As per the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website and the NYS Department of Health (DOH), the measles virus is highly contagious and spread through direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people (i.e. coughing and sneezing). Early symptoms include a fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat, followed by a rash that spreads over the body. Symptoms may appear as early as 7 days or as late as 21 days after exposure.

I would like to take this time to remind you that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires school districts to provide proof of immunization for every child in accordance with New York State Public Health Law §2164. On October 22, 2018, the NYS DOH in conjunction with the NYSED, issued a letter of guidance to school administrators outlining steps to take for Rockland County students who are not protected against measles. Presumably, the same guidance will apply to Orange County if/when there is a confirmed case within the schools. The guidance is as follows:

In the event of a confirmed case and notification from the NYS or Local Commissioner of Health, any student who has not received the **first dose** of the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine **including those with valid religious or medical exemptions** will be ordered to be kept out of school for **21 days after the last date of exposure** (even if they receive their first dose of MMR vaccine during this period of time).

Students in grades K-12 who have had one dose of MMR will not be allowed to attend school for 21 days after the last date of exposure, unless they receive their second dose of MMR vaccine. These students may return at any time after receiving this second dose.

Any student with serologic evidence (blood test) of immunity to measles may continue to attend school.

Please note that in the event of multiple confirmed cases, students who are not properly immunized may be out of school for several months, since they will need to be out of school for an additional 21 days past the last date of the last confirmed case in the school. While the District will certainly

take steps to ensure unvaccinated students are able to continue with course work from home, this cannot compare to the level of direct instruction students receive within the classroom setting.

According to the CDC, one dose of the measles vaccine is 93% effective and two doses is 97% effective in preventing measles. However, the doses must be given at least 28 days apart. If the immunization chart on file for your child indicates that your child may not be immune to measles, you will be receiving a separate communication specific to your child from the school nurse or principal. However, rather than waiting for this notification, it is highly recommended that you confirm with your child's doctor that the MMR vaccine was given in accordance with the required vaccine schedule and/or request a blood test to confirm immunity. As always, if your child receives additional vaccines or evidence of immunity, please send in a copy of your child's updated immunization chart and/or lab results to the school nurse as soon as possible.

On a side note, parents and other adults in the home are encouraged to consult with their doctors regarding their own immunization status as well. A simple blood test can confirm whether you are immune to measles and the vaccine can be given in the doctor's office.

Please understand this email is being sent as a precautionary measure. At this time there have not been any confirmed cases of measles in any of our schools. However, the outbreak in Rockland County and the confirmed case in Orange County raises significant concern for both the health and education of our students. We want you to be informed so you can consult with your child's physician and make health-related decisions based upon your child's individual health history and needs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office or your child's school nurse:

<u>CCHS x5010</u> Ms. Jordan Ms. Komondorea	<u>CCMS x4010</u> Ms. Maloney Ms. Walsh	<u>WAES x3010</u> Ms. Alessi	<u>CES x2010</u> Ms. Bayne Ms. Priore	<u>COH x1010</u> Ms. Glynn
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Sincerely,

Nicole E. Triassi

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Director of Pupil Personnel Services