

**LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING STUDENT MMR VACCINATION STATUS – AUGUST 2019**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In response to the national measles outbreak, you are receiving this notification as a reminder of the state of Ohio vaccination requirements (Ohio Revised Code 3313.67) for MMR (measles, mumps and rubella). All students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have 2 doses of the MMR vaccine.

In order to reduce the risk of a local outbreak, please assist our agencies and your school community by providing a copy of the vaccination record to the school. If your child is not vaccinated with MMR, please get it as soon as possible and submit the record

If your child will not be vaccinated, you must sign and return an immunization exemption form (i.e., medical, religious or personal) within 7 days of receiving this letter and return it to the school. **If a measles case occurs at your child's school, any student who has not been vaccinated will not be allowed to attend for 21 DAYS after the start of the last known case in the school.**

**Information about measles:**

- MMR vaccine is safe and 97% effective with both doses.
- Measles is very contagious. If one person has it, 90% of those around them will also become infected if they are not protected by the MMR vaccination.
- The measles virus is spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- Individuals infected with measles can spread the disease up to 4 days before symptoms appear.
- Measles symptoms include: high fever (may spike to more than 104° F), cough, runny nose, pink/red, watery eyes, and a rash.
- About 1 out of every 5 people who gets measles will be hospitalized.
- 1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis) which may lead to brain damage.
- 1 to 3 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.

Thank you for helping us prevent a measles outbreak. If you have questions regarding measles or the MMR vaccination, or would like to schedule a vaccination appointment, please contact your child's health care provider or visit [columbus.gov/measles](http://columbus.gov/measles) or [myfcph.org/measles](http://myfcph.org/measles).

Best of Health,



Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
Health Commissioner  
Columbus Public Health

Sincerely,



Joe Mazzola, MPA  
Health Commissioner  
Franklin County Public Health