



**San Joaquin County Office of
Education**

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

February 2, 2015

Dear Parents,

According to the California Department of Public Health, the number of measles cases continues to rise in California. As you may know, Measles is a highly infectious, airborne disease that typically begins with fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes and within a few days a red rash appears, usually first on the face and then spreading downward to the rest of the body. The measles virus can live for up to one hour on a surface or in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the contaminated surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected. On average, one person with measles can infect 18 people, if they are not immune. Infected people can spread measles to others from four days before to four days after the rash appears. About three out of 10 people who get measles will develop one or more complications including pneumonia, ear infections, or diarrhea. Complications are more common in adults and young children.

If your child has not been vaccinated for the measles and is eligible for vaccination, it is urgent and important that you contact your healthcare provider and have your son or daughter receive the measles vaccination. There are some people that are unable to be vaccinated against the measles. Therefore, having others who can be vaccinated helps protect those individuals that are unable to receive vaccine. These individuals that are unable to be vaccinated may include, but are not limited to, very young infants and children (less than 5 years old), immunocompromised children or adults such as those with leukemia, cancer and HIV infection, and pregnant women.

If you believe your son or daughter may have been exposed to the measles, please keep them home and contact your health care provider for next steps as well as the school to inform them. If a case of measles appears within our school community, students that have not received the measles vaccine will be sent home (excluded) from school. Should you have questions, please contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,

Donna Beckman, SJCOE Health Services Coordinator
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