

ATTENTION

Public Health Alert

George Latimer
County Executive

Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

DATE: 5 March 2024

SUBJECT: **Multiple U.S. Measles Cases in Unvaccinated Persons
Without International Travel**

PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL RELEVANT STAFF

- It is of increased urgency and importance to review and ensure that all students comply with NYS school entry/attendance immunization requirements at <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf> to prevent measles illness and spread in your schools. This includes Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) and other vaccines.
- Consider measles in students, teachers, and staff without MMR documentation or proof of immunity, with fever and rash, regardless of international travel

Attached is a Measles fact sheet for your review and use.

- Promptly place persons suspected of having measles in a single room, contact parents or guardians to have the child picked up and to contact their pediatrician or other medical provider.
- Providers must be notified of anyone with fever and rash prior to arriving at the office or facility
- Ensure that such potentially infectious individuals only return and remain in a private household until cleared by WCDH. Do not return such persons to a congregate residential setting.
- Contact WCDH about such individuals at:

914-813-5159 M-F 8:30-4:30

or

914-813-5000 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week

As per NYSDOH and CDC, a number of measles cases have recently been identified in U.S. residents who are unvaccinated or under vaccinated and without a history of international travel.

No cases have been identified in Westchester residents to date. Outbreaks in the U.S. have resulted from exposures in schools, childcares, and health care settings. Almost all of the cases are in unvaccinated individuals. There also are a number of measles outbreaks globally, including in European countries, such as the UK, to and from which there is a high volume of travelers. Being un- or under-vaccinated, the current global measles outbreaks, and international travel is increasing the risk of measles in U.S. residents. **A concern is that the vaccination rates in the U.S. are no longer high enough to prevent highly infectious diseases, such as measles, in the general population.**

Educational communities are thus being urged and reminded to prioritize efforts to ensure that all students and attendees comply with NYS school entry/attendance vaccination requirements as the best means of preventing measles and other vaccine preventable diseases, and disruption to your school.

In addition, being on the alert for measles and identifying such cases as early as possible and notifying the WCDH will help to prevent further spread.

Efforts to promote and ensure teacher and staff vaccinations are highly effective at preventing measles and other vaccine preventable disease illness and spread.

Additional information about measles is available at the WCDH website at <https://health.westchestergov.com/immunizations>

As always, your assistance and co-operation in addressing important public health issues is greatly appreciated.