



Dorchester School District Four Measles Information

Dorchester School District 4 is closely monitoring the current measles outbreak in the Upstate. While there are no reported cases in our area or in DD4 at this time, we remain committed to ensuring our district community is prepared. The district is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with public health officials and in accordance with our established health and safety procedures.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that typically begins with fever, cough, and runny nose, followed by a rash several days later. Given how easily measles spreads, state health guidelines require specific actions to protect students and staff.

Families should be aware that **if a student who does not have vaccination documentation on file is exposed to the measles virus, Department of Public Health procedures require the student to be excluded from school for 21 days** as a precautionary measure.

We encourage families to monitor their children for symptoms and contact a medical provider if they have concerns.

Measles – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is measles?

A: Measles is a highly contagious airborne virus. The virus lives in the nose and throat of an infected person and can remain viable for up to 2 hours in the air after the person leaves the area.

Q: How does measles spread?

A: The virus spreads through coughing and sneezing and spreads from person to person through inhaling contaminated air or touching surfaces with droplets and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. If someone is infected with measles, up to 90% of their contacts (if not immune) may also become infected. A person spreads measles before they know they have it, as they are contagious from 4 days before symptom onset through 4 days after rash onset. The incubation period for measles is 21 days.

Q: What are the symptoms of measles?

A: Symptoms begin 7-14 days after initial infection (contact with virus).

- Initial symptoms are high fever, cough, runny nose, and red/watery eyes.
- Day 2-3 symptoms include tiny white spots inside the mouth
- Day 3-5 symptoms include measles rash (flat red spots on the face at the hairline that then spreads to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet), often associated with a high spiking fever (up to 104)

Q: Are close contacts required to quarantine after an exposure to measles?

A: Per DPH, all close contacts to a case of measles who **do not** have proof of immunity are required to quarantine, regardless of the presence of symptoms. The current quarantine for measles exposure is 21 days from the last exposure.



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Q: How can someone be considered “immune” to measles?

A: To be considered to have immunity to the measles, an individual would need one of the following:

1. Date of birth prior to 1957
 - Individuals born before 1957, regardless of where they were born, have natural immunity based on the widespread nature of the disease prior to that time.
2. Proof of prior measles vaccination
 - Individuals with proof of at least 1 dose of a live measles vaccine are considered immune. While current recommendations (and requirements for students) are for 2 doses, a single dose is 93% effective and sufficient for immunity.
 - Individuals who received an inactive vaccine (only given from 1965 to 1968) would not be considered immune based on the vaccine record alone.

STUDENTS FAQ

Q: What should I do if my student is experiencing symptoms of measles?

A: Please contact your healthcare provider immediately. Staff and students should remain at home and contact their School Nurse, who will provide further guidance.

Q: What should I do if I am notified by the Department of Public Health or another individual that my student has been exposed to someone with measles?

A: Please monitor your student closely for symptoms and notify your School Nurse. Students who have proof of immunity on file with the District may return to school, provided they have no symptoms of measles. If you are unsure of your student's vaccine/immunity status, please contact your School Nurse or access your child's record on the SIMON registry. For medical guidance, please contact your child's healthcare provider.

Students who do not have a record of immunity on file with the District will be required to follow current DPH quarantine guidance. The current quarantine for individuals exposed to measles is 21 days from the last exposure.

Please note: This information is based on requirements at this time in accordance with guidelines from DPH and the CDC.

STAFF FAQ

Q: What should I do if I am experiencing symptoms of measles?

A: Please contact your healthcare provider immediately. Staff should remain home and alert their Administrator.

Q: What should I do if I am notified by the Department of Public Health or another individual that I have been exposed to someone with measles?

A: Please monitor yourself closely for symptoms and notify your Administrator/School Nurse. Staff members who have provided documentation of immunity to the District may return to



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work as long as they have no symptoms of measles. If you need medical guidance, please contact your healthcare provider.

Q: How do I know if I have immunity to measles?

A: To be considered immune, staff will need to meet one of the criteria listed above. Staff members have been asked to obtain records of prior vaccination or immunity and to voluntarily submit this information to the District if their immunity status is needed for contact tracing.

How do I find my vaccination records?

If you do not possess a hard copy of your childhood immunization record, you can check for your immunization records through the SIMON Portal. Go to the SIMON Portal Public Health website dph.sc.gov/ImmunizationRecords. Be sure to click the green box labeled "Download Full Record" to view older vaccinations. Instructions for accessing your record in the SIMON Portal are attached. If you were immunized in a state other than South Carolina, your records may have been entered in our state's portal by your health care provider. If your records are not available at the link above, you may need to contact the state health department, local hospital, or health care provider where you resided as a child or check with family members who may hold your childhood records.

IF Records cannot be located:

If you are unable to obtain your childhood immunization records, you will need to have MMR immunity titers drawn by a healthcare provider to confirm immunity.