

October 22, 2018

Dear School Administrator,

New York State law authorizes the Commissioner of the State Department of Health or his or her designee to require unvaccinated students (i.e., those who have a valid religious or medical exemption and those who, as described below, are not considered protected against measles) to stay home from school during a disease outbreak, which includes measles. The Commissioner of Health designated the Rockland County Health Commissioner, Dr. Patricia Ruppert, the authority to order Rockland County schools in which there have been one or more recently confirmed cases of measles to take appropriate steps to protect the students at those schools, including issuing an order that unvaccinated children remain home for a period of 21 days after the last exposure. This authorizing designation is effective through December 31, 2018. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is currently coordinating the response for measles cases within Brooklyn.

For schools that DO NOT have a positive measles case, the school should NOT exclude students who are unvaccinated (i.e., those that have a valid religious or medical exemption).

In the event that your school does have a confirmed case of measles and has received notification from the Commissioner of Health of the State of New York or the local Health Commissioner that unvaccinated students are ordered to be kept out of school, following is the exclusion criteria for all unvaccinated students (including those with valid religious or medical exemptions) and students who have not received the required vaccination doses:

**Vaccination:** Students are considered protected against measles if they have received appropriate doses of the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Unless otherwise indicated, two doses of MMR vaccine are required for a student to remain in school.

- Students who have not received their first dose of MMR vaccine: Any student who has not received their first dose of MMR vaccine cannot be allowed to attend 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.
- K-12 students with 1 dose of MMR vaccine: Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, with 1 dose of MMR vaccine cannot 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.
- Prekindergarten students with 1 dose of MMR: Students in pre-kindergarten with 1 dose of MMR are up-to-date for age and do not have to remain home from school. However, it is recommended that they receive a second dose of MMR vaccine.

**Serologic evidence of immunity:**

- Any student with serologic evidence of immunity to measles may continue to attend school.



Steps that must be taken if the measles **outbreak continues** in schools:

- Students who have not received their first or second dose of MMR vaccine, as appropriate, and lack evidence of serologic immunity will need to remain home for an **additional** 21 days after the date of last exposure in the schools.
- Students who received one dose of MMR during the outbreak must get a second dose 28 days after they received the first dose or they will need to remain home.

Affected schools should also take appropriate steps to ensure that unvaccinated students are able to continue with coursework from home.

Please immediately notify New York State Department of Health Measles Information Line at (888) 364-4837 and your local County Department of Health officials if you believe that you have a case of measles at your school. Lastly, as required by Section 66-1.10 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Health, [Exclusion in event of disease outbreak](#), all schools are **REQUIRED** to have readily accessible a list of every student's status. This list must be updated each time a student enrolls or a student's immunization status changes.

Sincerely,

Bradley Hutton, MPH  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Public Health

Jhone M. Ebert  
Senior Deputy Commissioner for  
Education Policy