

Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**– GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT –
9th Measles Case in Grant County**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – On May 2, Grant County Public Health District received confirmation of a 9th measles case. There is a high probability of additional cases. The 9th case attends Moses Lake Christian Academy, (MLCA).

Public health staff are working with the MLCA school to identify students and staff who are at risk of developing infection or who need to update their immunizations. Public health and school officials have canceled all formal and informal school activities until further notice.

“It is very important that you observe your child and call ahead to seek medical care for any symptoms of measles. Please notify the Grant County Health District if you are aware of anyone with a rash illness,” says Peggy Grigg, Administrator/Personal Health Director for the Grant County Health District.

Contact your healthcare provider or the Grant County Health District immediately if you think that you or someone in your family may have measles. Do not show up at a healthcare facility or doctor’s office without calling ahead. Measles can be easily transmitted through the air in many indoor settings.

The Grant County Health District is encouraging that all unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and all non-immune adults be updated for all recommended vaccinations and especially MMR. Please contact your healthcare provider or the Grant County Health District at 509-766-7960 for information on getting vaccinated for measles.

Full immunization will be required in schools and child cares where there are cases; increased outbreak activity in the community may result in the requirement for full in the county.

Please see the accompanying information on Measles from the Washington State Department of Health.

Measles Fact Sheet (Washington State Department of Health)

Description Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. It is also known as '10- day,' 'hard' or 'red' measles. Do not confuse this illness with rubella which is sometimes called 'German' or '3-day' measles.

Symptoms (last about a week) Rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes.

Complications Can include diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis, seizures, and death.

Transmission Droplet or airborne spread of the virus from the nose and mouth of a person who is infected. This is usually from sneezing, coughing or direct contact with items touched by a person with the disease. Airborne transmission can occur for up to two hours after a person with measles has been in a closed area.

Vaccine Measles vaccine (in the form of MMR, MR or measles only vaccines) can prevent this disease.

Which Adults Need Measles (Rubeola) Vaccine?

You should consider getting a measles vaccination if you were born in 1957 or later, AND:

- You have never had a measles vaccination or MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) **OR**
- You had a measles vaccination prior to 1968 **OR**
- You do not have a history of having had measles or a blood test that shows immunity to measles.

You are not required to get a blood test before getting measles vaccination.

Most adults need only one measles vaccination. A second dose of measles vaccine is recommended for health care workers and at the time of an exposure to measles. Also adults who were born in 1957 or later, who have had only one measles vaccination dose, and who are traveling outside the U.S. are recommended to get a second dose of measles vaccine prior to travel.

Which Children Need Measles (Rubeola) Vaccine?

- Any child 12 months age or older who have not previously been immunized with a measles vaccination.
- It is recommended that children receive a second dose between ages four to six years or 11 to 12 years. Both doses must have been given on or after the first birthday and at least 28 days apart.

When there is an outbreak of measles at a school or in a childcare setting, public health may require measles vaccination or may prevent children who are not immunized from attending school or childcare until the measles outbreak is over. Children who have had only one measles vaccination dose and who are traveling outside the U.S. are recommended to get a second dose of measles vaccine prior to travel.