



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

06/02/08

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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**No new cases of measles this week.
New chickenpox cases in Moses Lake.**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – As of Friday, May 30, 2008, the Grant County Health District has not received additional reports of measles cases in Grant County, since the 17th and 18th cases were identified. Public Health Officials in consultation with the State Department of Health have determined the measles outbreak will be over once two full incubation periods has passed with no additional cases. Currently that date will be June 18, 2008. This date will be extended if additional cases are identified.

During 2007-2008 school year 28 cases of chickenpox has been reported to the Health District, of which 22 were in Moses Lake. Nearly one half of all the cases have been reported in the past month. Moses Lake Midway school complex has recently had 12 cases and outbreak interventions were implemented and have now been completed. The interventions included vaccination of those who could not demonstrate immunity and the exclusion of those who chose not to vaccinate. Three children were excluded, and have now been allowed to return to school. Healthcare providers are not required to report chickenpox cases to the Health District; however, school nurses and many pre-schools and child care providers cooperatively report so that public health can help control the spread of the disease. The Washington State Board of Health has changed the varicella (chickenpox) requirement for school entry based on national recommendations made in 2007. Starting this fall all Kindergarteners, must have two doses of varicella vaccine or healthcare provider or laboratory documentation of immunity. This will be phased in for all grades over a period of years.

Chickenpox is a common childhood disease. It is usually mild, but it can be serious, especially in young infants and adults. The most effective way to protect your child from this disease is to get them vaccinated. Families are encouraged to check their children's immunization records.

CHICKENPOX

- Their child should receive their **FIRST** chickenpox vaccine at 12-15 months of age.
- If the child is 12 months through 12 years they can get their second dose 3 months after their first dose.
- For children and adults 13 or older they should get their second dose 4-8 weeks after their first dose.

MEASLES

- 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.

MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) and Varicella (chickenpox) vaccines will be provided at no cost to children at Grant County Health District offices on Mondays from 1:00-4:00pm in Ephrata (next to the Grant County Courthouse) and Wednesdays from 8:30-11:00 am in Moses Lake 1038 W Ivy Street through mid-June.