

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/05/08 TO: Grant County school administrators and nurses.	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Grigg, Administrator Alexander Brzezny, Health Officer
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**- GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT -
12 Cases of Measles Confirmed
Student Attends Moses Lake Christian Academy**

Grant County Health District has reported **12 cases of measles** in Grant County. This public health alert is to advise school officials of the current situation and make recommendations to help control the spread of measles.

As of May 4, 2007:

- The first 8 cases reported to the Grant County Health District came from a single household; 3 were confirmed by laboratory results. There were no close contacts related to school setting.
- The additional 4 cases were laboratory confirmed over the weekend and are students from private schools in the Moses Lake area:
 - Moses Lake Christian Academy
 - Christian School Moses Lake
- Identification of close contacts has included a student in the public school system.

Parents of close contacts who have been identified as having no MMR vaccine or only a single dose of MMR are being notified by the Grant County Health District. Below is the requirement that will be implemented for any school that has a case of measles.

*If the child, staff or volunteer **has not received any measles vaccine (MMR)** he/she will not be allowed to participate in school or other group activities (both non-school and school-related activities) until:*

- **Preschool and Elementary students will be excluded until 21 days after last exposure..**
- **Secondary students will be excluded until 21 days after last exposure**

*If the child, staff, or volunteer **has received ONE DOSE** of the measles vaccine (MMR) and it has been more than 4 weeks since receiving the vaccine he/she **will not be allowed to participate** in school or other group activities until he/she receives a **second dose.***

A blood test proving immunity, a titer, may be substituted for vaccination; the individual will be excluded until those results are reviewed by Health District staff. This testing must be done through a healthcare provider.

*It is very important that parents and school staff observe children and 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.** Please have the parent/guardian **call ahead** before taking the child to the healthcare provider.*

Grant County Health District regularly offers childrens' vaccines on Mondays in Ephrata (at the Courthouse) from 1 to 4 pm. Special clinics may also be set.

We are requesting that you review your students' vaccine records and notify those parents who have exempted their children from the Washington State vaccine requirements. We are developing a letter for your use and will provide it to you by the end of today. This outbreak could very easily spread to public schools in the coming weeks and we are requesting your assistance. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Attached please find a Measles Fact sheet in English and Spanish.