



School Response for an Individual with Measles

When measles occurs at a school, there are 4 steps the school needs to take immediately, in partnership with Public Health – Madison & Dane County (PHMDC):

- 1. Identify all students, staff, and visitors who were in the building during the period of exposure;**
- 2. Notify these individuals that they may have been exposed to measles;**
- 3. Determine if these individuals are immune to measles (this is a complicated process, PHMDC will work closely with the school to accomplish this);**
- 4. Exclude non-immune individuals from school and all school-related activities.**

This document provides details for accomplishing these tasks.

The goal of this response is to prevent the further spread of measles in the school and in the community. Measles is a very contagious disease that can travel throughout a building and remain in the air even after a person leaves the area. Individuals who were in the building while the measles virus was present are very likely to develop measles also unless they are immune to measles. It is important to identify people who were in the building during this time who were not immune. They may need to be quarantined/isolated at home so that if they do develop measles, they do not spread it to other people at school or in the community.

Since people with measles are contagious before they have symptoms and people who are exposed may become contagious within a few days, it is very important to work quickly to identify exposed individuals and determine their immune status to prevent the further spread of disease. Schools can put processes in place now that will allow them to quickly identify exposed individuals and to work with the local health department to quickly determine who is immune. The names and contact information of all exposed individuals should be shared with the local health department as soon as possible after a case has been identified. Schools are able to provide this information to the local health department under [Wisconsin Statute 252](#).

Public Health – Madison & Dane County phone numbers

Business hours: 266-4821

After hours: 267-3913

No special cleaning needs to be performed. Measles is spread primarily through the air. Measles virus on surfaces is no longer contagious within 2 hours.

Determine the exposure period. This is the time period during which people in the building may have been exposed (work with PHMDC to do this).

1. Determine the date of rash onset.
2. Determine the days during which the individual was infectious (4 days prior to and 4 days after the rash onset).
3. Determine which days and during which hours the individual was in the building while infectious. Don't forget to include on-site before and after school care and extra-curricular activities.
4. Since the measles virus can remain in the air for up to 2 hours after a person leaves an area, add 2 hours to the time the individual left the building to calculate the end of the exposure period for each day.

Determine everyone that was in the building during the exposure period. See below for follow-up of specific groups likely to have been exposed.

Students

- Identify all students who were in the building during the exposure period who have a medical waiver for MMR vaccine.
 - Give these students' names, addresses, phone numbers, and DOB to PHMDC as soon as possible.
 - Based on the timing of the last time the infected student was in school and when these students can be contacted, they may either receive immune globulin (IG) or be excluded from school and quarantined at home:
 - If these students are able to receive 1 dose of IG within 6 days after the first exposure to the infected student, they may remain in school. This dose could be given by the students' primary care providers with written documentation or by PHMDC.
 - If these students are not able to receive one dose of IG within 6 days after the first exposure to the infected individual, they must be excluded from school and all school-related activities beginning 7 days after the first date exposure through 21 days after the last date of exposure.
 - The school will notify these students' parents of the students' possible exposure and school exclusion requirements.
 - PHMDC will notify the students' parents of the students' other quarantine requirements.
- Identify all other students who were in the building during the exposure period who have 0 or 1 dose of MMR vaccine.
 - Give these students' names, addresses, phone numbers, and DOB to PHMDC as soon as possible.
 - Based on the timing of the last time the infected individual was in school and when these students can be contacted, they may either be immunized or excluded from school and quarantined at home:
 - If these students are able to receive 1 dose of MMR vaccine less than 72 hours after the first exposure to the infected individual, they may remain in school. This dose could be given by the students' primary care

providers with written documentation or by PHMDC. Students may return to school immediately after receiving this dose of vaccine.

- If these students are not able to receive one dose of MMR vaccine within 72 hours after the first exposure to the infected individual, they must be excluded from school and all school-related activities beginning 7 days after the first date exposure through 21 days after the last date of exposure.
 - The school will notify these students' parents of the students' possible exposure and school exclusion requirements.
 - PHMDC will notify the students' parents of the students' other quarantine requirements.
 - Note: these students can also receive 1 dose of IG within 6 days of the first exposure in order to return to school. However, state-supplied IG will be reserved for students who *cannot* receive MMR and will not be provided to students who *opted* not to receive MMR. These students may contact their primary care providers for IG.
- Notify all other students (i.e. students with 2 doses of MMR vaccine) who were in the building during the exposure period of the possible exposure so they can watch for symptoms. They do not need to be excluded from school.

Staff

- Identify all staff members (teachers, administration, custodial, coaches, substitute teachers, etc) who were in the building during the time of exposure. Provide names, addresses, phone numbers, and DOB to PHMDC as soon as possible.
- Notify all staff members who were in the building during the time of exposure of the possible exposure and the need to provide proof of immunity. If it has been 7 or more days since the first exposure, staff will need to be excluded from school until they can provide proof of immunity.
- Staff members will need to provide proof of immunity. This can include:
 - Birth prior to 1957 **or**
 - Written documentation of 1 valid dose of MMR vaccine **or**
 - Serology that shows immunity to measles **or**
 - Receipt of 1 dose of MMR vaccine within 72 hours after the first date of exposure
- Staff members who are not able to provide proof of immunity will need to be excluded from school and all school-related activities and quarantined at home beginning 7 days after the first date exposure through 21 days after the last date of exposure.
 - The school will notify non-immune staff members of their school exclusion requirements.
 - PHMDC will notify non-immune staff members of their other quarantine requirements.
- Note: staff members can also receive 1 dose of IG within 6 days of the first exposure in order to return to school. However, state-supplied IG will be reserved for individuals

who *cannot* receive MMR. Other individuals may contact their primary care providers for IG.

Visitors

- Identify all other individuals who were in the building during the time of exposure. This could include volunteers, rival sports teams, bus drivers, emergency responders, delivery personnel, etc. Provide as much information about these individuals to PHMDC as possible.
 - PHMDC will work with the school to notify these individuals.
 - If it has been 7 or more days since the first exposure, these individuals need to provide proof of immunity before returning to the school. Proof of immunity can include:
 - For adults:
 - Birth prior to 1957 **or**
 - Written documentation of 1 valid dose of MMR vaccine **or**
 - Serology that shows immunity to measles **or**
 - Receipt of 1 dose of MMR vaccine within 72 hours of the first possible exposure
 - For children:
 - Written documentation of 2 valid doses of MMR vaccine
 - For children with 0 or 1 dose of MMR vaccine, written documentation of receipt of a dose of MMR vaccine within 72 hours of the first exposure.

Determine if the student left the building for school-related activities during the exposure period.

- Provide the dates, times, and locations of these activities to the local health department.
- PHMDC will work with the school to notify individuals at these activities of the possible exposure.

Resources:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/measles.htm>

Wisconsin Measles Surveillance and Control Guidelines:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/measles.htm>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

Kids Health: <http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/lung/measles.html#>

Wisconsin Immunization Registry public access:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm>