

May 17, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

A multi-county measles outbreak is occurring in our area, and we have 2 cases in Pierce County residents.

Measles is a highly contagious and serious disease. It can cause brain, spinal cord and lung infections—or even death. It spreads easily through the air and can stay in the air 2 hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Two shots of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine can prevent measles almost 100% of the time. All it takes is 1 shot at 12 to 15 months of age and a second shot at 4 to 6 years of age. People not vaccinated on schedule can get 1 shot now and a second shot 1 month later.

If a case of measles occurs in your school or an outbreak occurs in the community, children who do not meet school MMR vaccination requirements can't go to school for 21 days until the disease is under control.

The measles vaccine is safe and effective. We recommend your whole family be vaccinated. For more information about measles or other vaccine-preventable diseases, visit www.tpchd.org/measles. You can check vaccination records via a link on this page. If you or a family member needs to get MMR vaccine, contact your healthcare provider or go to a free children's immunization clinic shown at www.tpchd.org/immunizationcalendar.

Call Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at (253) 798-6410 if you have questions.