

**Office of the Director**

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[www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health)

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Thank you for your steadfast partnership in protecting the health and wellbeing of students, staff, and families in your school district. Over the last few years, we have faced many public health challenges together and through that collaboration, we were able to see firsthand the level of commitment not only to the education of our children but also to maintain a safe learning environment.

[Measles cases and outbreaks](#) continue to rise and have already exceeded 1,000 cases nationally, including [28 measles cases](#) in Washington in 2026 so far. These outbreaks raise concerns about measles resurgence, driven by a steady decline in measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination rates and spread of misinformation. Local spread of measles may result in hospitalization due to infection and disruptions to learning in schools, so prevention is critical to protect staff and students.

**Measles vaccination remains the most important tool against measles infection.** One dose of MMR is 93% effective against measles, and two doses are 97% effective and immunity generally lasts a lifetime. As expected, most US cases this year (92%) are among people who are unvaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown.

You have an essential role in helping us prepare for measles by supporting efforts to increase vaccination rates and ensuring staff and students have proof of immunity. To achieve this, we strongly urge you to take the following steps to keep our schools, preschools, and childcare facilities safe and open.

- **Promote the importance of measles (MMR) vaccination and share resources about [where to get vaccinated](#):**
  - Use all school-to-home communication platforms, including postal mail, email, newsletters, digital flyers, PTA bulletins and social media to educate families about the importance of measles vaccination (resources below).
  - Children <19 years can get routine immunizations – including the MMR vaccine – at no cost, regardless of insurance status. Encourage families to get vaccinated now before spring and summer travel. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are recommended for eligible children and adults prior to travel outside of the US given the number of measles cases abroad.
- **Review the [measles immune status](#) of your students and ensure that all children are in compliance with [state immunization requirements](#).** Make sure families understand that individuals without proof of immunity, including those who are unvaccinated, will need to be excluded from school for 21 days from the last day of an exposure if a case occurs in their school or child care.
- **Strongly encourage staff to know their measles immune status:** Prepare to exclude staff and volunteers without proof of immunity, including those who are unvaccinated. If staff are unsure of their immune status, they should find out now by signing-up for [MyIR Mobile](#) to view their immunization records or contact their healthcare provider.

- **Take action if a student or staff member gets measles:** Report suspected cases to Public Health immediately and be prepared to give Public Health a list of students, staff, visitors and volunteers who were at the school while the person(s) who had measles were in attendance.
- **Stay informed about disease outbreaks and other emergent public health concerns:**
  - Subscribe to the PHSKC Health Advisory listserv at [kingcounty.gov/advisories](http://kingcounty.gov/advisories).
  - Track measles cases and outbreaks at [Measles Cases in Washington State](#).

#### **Resources to Share with Families**

- [Measles Signs and Symptoms](#)
- [Measles FAQ](#)
- [Measles Basic Information Handout](#)
- [About the Measles Vaccine](#)
- [Measles Outbreak Information For Families](#)
- For families needing health insurance or a health care provider, refer to [Community Health Access Program \(CHAP\)](#), 1-800-756-5437

#### **Resources for Schools, Child Care and Early Learning**

- [Preparing and Responding to Measles: Checklist for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Measles Preparedness for Schools](#)
- [Measles Preparedness for Child Care and Early Learning](#)
- [Measles Resources for Schools, Workplaces, Healthcare, and Organizations](#)
- [Outbreaks and Exclusion](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Public Health Immunization Program at [vaccineinfo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vaccineinfo@kingcounty.gov).

Thank you for your continued partnership!



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