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HEALTH ALERT: Measles Cases in Linn County – Information for Schools & Childcare Providers

January 12, 2026

Dear K-12 School Districts and Childcare Providers,

Thank you for your continued partnership in protecting the health and safety of students, children, staff, and families. Please review the information below and share the attached document, “Important Measles Information for Families,” with staff and families as appropriate.

Situation Overview: Measles Cases in Linn County

- Two cases of measles have been confirmed in Linn County.
- Public health exposure notifications have been issued for the following locations and times:
 - **Lebanon Community Hospital Emergency Department**, between 8:53 p.m. Jan. 6 and 7 a.m. Jan. 7.
 - **Albany General Hospital Emergency Department**, between 4:59 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Jan. 7.

Individuals who were present at these locations during the identified timeframes are advised to immediately contact their healthcare provider and let them know they may have been exposed to someone who has measles. The health care provider will assess immunity to measles based on vaccination records, age, or laboratory evidence of prior infection.

Because students, families, and staff frequently travel between Linn and Benton Counties for school, work, healthcare, and other activities, measles cases in a neighboring county increase the risk of exposure within our school and childcare communities. Early notification allows school administrators and program managers to prepare for potential exclusions, reinforce prevention measures, and communicate proactively with families and staff.

Implications for Schools and Childcare Programs

Just one measles case in a K-12 school or childcare setting can result in significant operational impacts. Under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 333-019-0010), **students and staff who are unvaccinated and exposed to measles will be required to be excluded from school or childcare for 21 days or longer following exposure.**

Ensuring families are aware of vaccination requirements and the potential for extended exclusion is a critical prevention strategy. Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent measles transmission and avoid prolonged disruptions to education and care services.

Measles Symptoms & Risks Considerations

Measles typically starts with a fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes, followed by a rash that starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. Measles is highly contagious and can lead to serious complications and death.

Risk is highest for people who are unvaccinated, especially for young children and people who are pregnant. Children are at increased risk for pneumonia, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), hospitalization, and death. Families should be encouraged to consult with healthcare providers about individual risk and vaccination status.

Guidance to Share with Staff and Families: Suspected Measles

To reduce the risk of measles transmission:

- **Stay home from school or childcare:**
Students and staff should stay home if they have a measles-like illness (such as fever, cough, red eyes, or a measles-like rash), or if they have had a known exposure to measles within the past 21 days. Refer to the Oregon Department of Education's [symptom-based exclusion guidelines](#) for additional direction.
- **Call before seeking medical care:**
Individuals should not arrive unannounced at a medical office if they have a measles-like rash, or been exposed to measles within the past 21 days and are experiencing any symptoms (such as fever, cough, or red eyes).
- **Contact a healthcare provider in advance:**
Anyone seeking medical care under these circumstances should call their healthcare provider or urgent care clinic first. Calling ahead allows healthcare staff to plan for safe entry and helps prevent potential exposure in waiting rooms.

School administrators and program managers are encouraged to reinforce this guidance in staff and family communications.

Vaccination Sites:

- Regular medical provider
- Retail pharmacies, including pharmacy counters inside grocery stores, can vaccinate children 7 years and older.
- School-Based Health Centers
 - Lincoln Health Center: (541) 766-3546
 - Monroe Health Center: (541) 766-6000
- Benton County Health Department: (541) 766-6835

The MMR vaccine is the most important tool for preventing measles in our schools, childcare settings, and the broader community.

More Information on Measles

- [OHA: Measles/Rubeola \(Vaccine-Preventable\)](#)
- [OHA Monthly Measles Dashboard](#)
- [CDC Measles Cases & Outbreaks](#)
- [CDC Measles Vaccination](#)

Thank you for your leadership and collaboration in supporting a safe and healthy learning and care environment.

Respectfully,



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