



May 8th, 2019

Dear Parents:

There has been outbreaks of measles in many of our neighboring states (New York) as well as other states (New Jersey, Michigan, California) across the country, but now there are reported cases in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is sharing information about measles to heighten awareness of the potential for infection.

Measles is an acute viral disease that is spread through airborne transmission of the virus or by contact with items contaminated by throat or nasal secretions. Measles disease is characterized by the following:

1. Fever (101 F or higher), cough, runny nose (coryza) and red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis);
2. Koplik's spots, which may appear on the mucosa of the mouth within two to three days;
3. A characteristic red, blotchy rash that appears on the face then spreads body-wide in days three to seven after symptoms begin;
4. Other symptoms may include a loss of appetite, swollen lymph nodes and diarrhea (especially in infants);
5. Possible complications of the measles include ear infections, pneumonia, febrile seizures and encephalitis (infection of the brain).

While most people are not at risk because they have been immunized with 2 doses of the MMR vaccine or have had measles disease as a child, we strongly urge that if you suspect one of your family members may have the measles, please contact your family physician. If you or your child have not been vaccinated, or you plan to travel to one of the involved states who have epidemics, or plan to travel abroad (Europe, Asia, Africa, South America), please consider vaccination. If we find ourselves with a confirmed case of measles in our schools, children who are NOT vaccinated will be excluded from the building for their protection. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of our health offices and speak to the nurse.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jan Brabender, Mrs. Karen Bergamasco and Mrs. Tracy Neff  
North East School District School Nurses

"Serving Students in The  Heart of The Grape Country"