

Dear North Shore Families,

Measles, once considered eliminated in the United States, is now making a concerning return across the country. Measles spreads very easily. Even one case in our community could cause many people who are not protected by the MMR vaccine to get sick. **Wisconsin currently has one of the lowest measles vaccination rates** in the country, ranking 47th out of 50 states. This puts everyone at risk.

Right now, more than **500 students** across North Shore schools do not have full protection against measles. This puts them, as well as babies, those with weak immune systems, and others who cannot get vaccinated, in danger. Measles is not a mild illness. It can cause a high fever, cough, sore eyes, rash, and other serious health problems. Measles spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can stay in the air for up to two hours and data show that **9 out of 10 people who are not vaccinated will get measles if they are exposed.**

If someone in our community gets measles, we will act quickly to identify and notify anyone who was exposed. Anyone who is not vaccinated may have to stay home from school, daycare, and all public places for **up to 21 days** to prevent more people from getting sick. Those infected will need to **isolate at home** until cleared by their doctor or local health department. These steps are important to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

The **MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella)** is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and your family. This vaccine has been studied for over 50 years and has been safely used since 1971. Two doses of MMR provide 97% protection against measles. Since people started getting the vaccine, measles cases in the United States have gone down by 99%.

If your child has **a fever with a rash**, keep them home and call your doctor before going anywhere. Please check your child's vaccine records today. You can log on to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm>.

We are here to help. Please call the North Shore Health Department at (414) 371-2980 with any questions. **Together, we can keep our schools and community safe!**

Sincerely,



Becky Rowland, MPH, MBA  
Health Officer  
North Shore Health Department