



January 31, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian;

A large measles outbreak is occurring in Clark County, in southwest Washington. Additionally, there is one confirmed measles case in King County, Washington, and one confirmed measles case in Portland, Oregon.

So far, there are **no reports of measles in Lewis County.**

Measles is a serious disease that can cause ear infections, lung infections, brain and spinal cord infections or death. Measles is very contagious even before a rash appears. 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 and rubella (MMR) vaccine can prevent measles almost 100% of the time. All it takes is 1 shot at 12- 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 a month later.

Some children can't get the measles vaccine for medical reasons. Some children don't get the measles vaccine for personal or religious reasons. If a case of measles happens in your child's school, children who do not meet MMR vaccination requirements cannot go to school until the disease is under control, 21 days after the last case in the school.

The measles vaccine is safe and effective. We recommend everyone in your family be fully vaccinated. Please contact your healthcare provider or local pharmacy if you or your child needs to be vaccinated.

For more information about measles or other vaccine-preventable diseases, visit www.cdc.gov or www.doh.wa or call Lewis County Public Health and Social Services at (360)740-1222.