



Measles Information for Childcare Facilities in Licking County

November 15, 2022

The Ohio Department of Health is reporting an increase in the number of measles cases reported in central Ohio. As of November 15, 2022, **15 cases of measles** have been reported in Columbus and Franklin County. All of the infected individuals were unvaccinated, and they have no history of international travel. As of now, there have been **no cases reported in Licking County**.

Measles in a childcare facility can be a serious concern for children and adults not protected against the virus. The CDC recommends that childcare facility staff and children be protected against measles and get vaccinated, if necessary, according to their age and health status.

Measles Symptoms:

- Fever
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Conjunctivitis (red, watery eyes)
- Tiny white spots inside the mouth
- Rash all over the body

Measles Transmission:

The CDC indicates that measles is one of the most contagious infectious diseases. Nearly 90% of susceptible people in close contact with a measles patient will develop measles. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles virus can remain infectious in the air for **up to two (2) hours** after an infected person leaves an area. **Individuals infected with measles can spread the disease to others before showing symptoms.**

Measles Isolation and Quarantine:

Childcare facility staff and children attending childcare facilities diagnosed with measles are required to isolate for **4 days** following the onset of their rash.



Childcare facility staff and children attending childcare facilities that are exposed to a measles case that do not have evidence of immunity against measles should quarantine for **21 days** after their last exposure to the individual with measles.

Measles Vaccination:

Measles can be prevented through vaccination. The primary vaccination for measles is the combination measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. If you have children or staff in need of an MMR vaccine, please have them call LCHD at **740-349-6535** to make an appointment to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible.

One dose of MMR vaccine is approximately 93% effective at preventing measles; two doses are approximately 97% effective.

Measles Precautions in Childcare Facilities:

Childcare facilities are encouraged to conduct disinfection procedures on high touch surfaces, and recommend staff and children conduct frequent handwashing. If childcare facility staff or children attending these facilities are showing symptoms, or are sick, they should stay home.

Sincerely,

Communicable Disease Team
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