

Dear Delaware ACP Chapter Members,

As you are aware, our nation is experiencing its worst outbreak of Measles in the past 25 years, with 839 cases documented in 23 States, as of May 10th, There have been no cases reported in Delaware as yet, but our surrounding States of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have all reported cases, and especially New York. These cases have resulted from spread of disease by travelers from foreign countries such as Israel, Ukraine and the Philippines, where outbreaks are occurring. I have appended a communication from DE DPH below, which addresses questions the DPH is receiving from physicians and other health care workers throughout the State. I will also note that Dr. Marci Drees, FACP, Infection Control Officer at Christiana Care, will be presenting on the topic of Measles at Medical Grand Rounds at Christiana Care's Ammon Center on Thursday, May 30th, from 8-9 am.

Best regards, John H. O'Neill, D.O., MACP, Interim Governor, DE ACP

Sent on behalf of the Delaware Division of Public Health Medical Director Dr. Rick Hong:

As a result of the recent measles outbreak nationwide, several medical providers have shared with me that they are receiving calls from patients asking if they need an MMR booster shot. According to the CDC, there is currently no evidence that immunity to the measles virus wanes over time, and have not made any recommendations that a booster, or third dose of the vaccine, is needed.

The CDC continues to state that individuals who have been fully vaccinated (2 doses, at least 28 days apart) are protected from developing measles. Adults born during, or after, 1957 should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine unless they have proof of vaccination or have a blood test that shows immunity. School-aged children and adults at high risk, including college students, healthcare personnel, and international travelers who have only received a single dose of the MMR vaccine should consider receiving a second dose (as long as it is 28 days after the initial dose).

Children should receive their first dose of MMR vaccine at 12-15 months of age and the second dose at 4-6 years of age (or no earlier than 28 days apart). Infants that are 6- 11 months of age and are a part of a high risk population, including those about to travel to an area known to have measles or currently living in an area with a current outbreak, should receive one dose of MMR vaccine. These infants who get one dose of MMR vaccine prior to their first birthday should get two more doses, the first at 12- 15 months of age and the second dose 28 days after that.

Healthcare workers and individuals who are around, or care for, immunocompromised people should receive 2 doses of the MMR Vaccine at least 28 days apart.

If a person cannot remember if they received the MMR vaccine, they can contact the Division of Public Health (DPH) Immunization Program at [\(302\) 744-1060](tel:3027441060), and program staff will check DelVAX or archived records. There is no harm in giving MMR vaccine to a person who may already be immune to one or more of the vaccine viruses.

For more information on the MMR vaccine, visit the CDC's website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/hcp/recommendations.html>.

If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to reach out to the DPH Immunization program staff at [\(302\) 744-1060](tel:3027441060).

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Hong