MEASLES INFORMATION FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

The Idaho Immunization Program Encourages Childcare Facilities to Prepare for Possible Measles Cases

February 1, 2019

The Idaho Immunization Program encourages childcare staff to review measles exclusion policies and communication protocols in the event measles is diagnosed in an attendee of their childcare facility.

At this time, there are no reported cases of measles in Idaho. There are ongoing measles outbreaks in Washington and New York state. As of February 1, Clark County Washington confirms 41 cases, King County, Washington and Multnomah County in Oregon have one confirmed case each.

The measles virus is highly contagious and can spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, sore throat, and a rash that spreads all over the body. Measles infection can also lead to secondary illnesses such as pneumonia or swelling of the brain, which can cause death.

It is recommended that the first dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine be given at age 12 through 15 months and the second dose given at age 4 through 6 years. The measles vaccine is very safe and effective. Two doses of MMR are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is 93% effective.

Immunization Records and Measles Exclusions

In Idaho, childcare providers must keep copies of attendees' immunization records or immunization exemptions. Childcare providers and public health agencies have the authority to exclude children with certain diseases and children without evidence of immunity.

- Exclude any attendee of a licensed childcare diagnosed with measles.
- Exclude any attendees without evidence of immunity (e.g., no immunization record, exempt from the MMR vaccine) if an attendee of the childcare is diagnosed with measles. Attendees without proof of immunity will be excluded for 21 days after the last case of measles in facility attendees.

Evidence of immunity to measles:

Evidence of immunity includes:

- documentation of up to date MMR vaccine (children 1 year to pre-kindergarten should have one dose),
- documentation of immunity to measles (a positive blood test result for measles immunity or laboratory confirmation of prior measles disease), or
- prior disease diagnosis by a licensed health care professional.

Be Prepared for a Case of Measles

The Idaho Immunization Program encourages you to:

- Review your attendee records to identify which children do not have evidence of immunity and would be excluded if an attendee is diagnosed with measles.
- Identify staff and volunteers that might be susceptible to measles. Inform them of the risk of disease if an attendee is diagnosed with measles. They may wish to discuss vaccination with their healthcare provider. Adults are considered susceptible if they were born after 1956 and do not have:

  - at least one documented dose of MMR vaccine,
  - documented laboratory evidence of immunity, or
  - documented laboratory confirmation of prior measles disease.

- Exclusion of susceptible staff or volunteers when an attendee has been diagnosed with measles is highly recommended.
- Develop or revise communication protocols to inform parents about exclusions. (e.g., keep e-mail and phone lists current). If an attendee is diagnosed with measles, local public health agencies can provide a template letter that can be sent to parents through normal communication channels.

For questions and additional information, please contact the Idaho Immunization Program at (208) 334-5901 or iip@dhw.idaho.gov.

Links to Idaho Code and Administrative Rule Concerning Immunizations and Vaccine Preventable Diseases:

Immunization Requirements for Children Attending Licensed Daycare Facilities in Idaho: https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/160211.pdf
Idaho Reportable Diseases: http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/160210.pdf
Idaho Statutes Immunizations Childcare:
https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title39/T39CH11/SECT39-1118/