



Dear Ingham County School Families,

We hope this message finds you well. We understand that recent news regarding measles cases in our area may be concerning, and we want to share some important information to help keep your school community informed and protected.

On Monday, April 14, the Ingham County Health Department confirmed the first case of measles in our area since 1994. A second case was confirmed on April 22. Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that can lead to serious health complications. Common symptoms include fever, cough, sneezing, and a blotchy rash. Measles is the most contagious vaccine-preventable disease. A person with measles can spread the virus from four days before to four days after the appearance of a rash. **Without vaccination, up to 90% of individuals exposed to the virus may become infected.** Please be advised that in the event of an outbreak, your child may be required to stay home from school based on their vaccination status

We recognize that vaccination is a personal choice, and Michigan law permits medical, religious, and philosophical waivers. Our intention in providing this information is to promote the health and safety of all students and families through increased awareness and education, so families can make informed decisions to protect their own health and the well-being of others.

The best protection against measles is the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine. According to the CDC:

- One dose of the MMR vaccine is 93% effective at preventing measles.
- Two doses are 97% effective and offer lifelong protection.

MMR vaccines are available through the following sources:

- Your child's pediatrician or primary care provider
- Urgent care centers (please call ahead to confirm availability)
- Local pharmacies (check for age restrictions)
- Ingham County Health Department clinics – visit <https://hd.ingham.org> for current hours and availability

As of February 2025, MMR vaccination coverage among children aged 19 to 35 months in Ingham County is 83.3%. This is below the 95% threshold needed for herd immunity, which helps protect our most vulnerable community members, including infants and individuals with certain medical conditions who cannot be vaccinated.

We also want to remind families that students and staff should stay home if they are feeling unwell—especially if they have a fever, cough, or rash. Staying home when sick helps reduce the spread of illness and keeps others safe. **If you think your child may have measles, please call your healthcare provider before going in, so they can take proper precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.**

If you have questions about your child's vaccination status or where to receive the MMR vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting the health and safety of our school community.

Sincerely,

Nike Shoyinka, MD, MPH  
*Medical Health Officer*  
*Ingham County Health Department*