



Dear Parent/Guardian,

With summer ending and families preparing for the new school year, I wanted to reach out to remind you that measles is still a concern for our community. Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads easily. Nine out of ten unvaccinated people exposed to measles will get sick. While most people recover, measles can lead to serious complications like pneumonia and brain swelling.

The most important step you can take to protect yourself and your children is to get the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The MMR vaccine is very safe and effective; one dose of the vaccine provides 93% protection against measles and two doses provide 97% protection against measles.

I strongly encourage you to have yourself and your children vaccinated against measles as soon as possible if your family is not already vaccinated. Vaccination not only protects your family but also protects others in our community who cannot get the vaccine, like infants or people with weakened immune systems.

If you have questions or concerns about the MMR vaccine or are unsure if your child is protected, please speak to your child's healthcare provider. If you do not have a provider, please contact Austin Public Health at 512-972-5555.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter. Your efforts help keep our children and community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Desmar Walkes', is written in a cursive style.

Desmar Walkes, MD  
Austin-Travis County Health Authority  
Austin Public Health Medical Director