

**BROWN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Public Health Division**



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**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Dear Brown County Parents/Guardians,**

As Brown County Public Health continues to monitor the growing number of measles cases around the United States (U.S.) and in Wisconsin (WI), we wanted to share information about measles and how to protect yourselves, your child(ren), and your school and community.

From January 1– March 6, 2026, there have been 1,281 cases of measles in the U.S. (Source: [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | Measles \(Rubeola\) | CDC](#)). While WI has only had 2 confirmed cases so far this year (Wisconsin Department of Health Services Measles Dashboard updated weekly [here](#)), the risk for additional cases and even an outbreak in our community still exists.

**With Spring Break coming up, some may be traveling outside the state or country, and this can increase the risk of exposure to measles. Being proactive is key to preventing measles.**

**The MMR vaccine is safe and effective at preventing Measles, Mumps, and Rubella.**

Scientists in the U.S. and other countries have carefully studied the MMR vaccine and no credible study has found a link between autism and the vaccine. One dose of the MMR vaccine is: 93% effective against measles, 72% effective against mumps, 97% effective against rubella and two doses are: 97% effective against measles and 86% effective against mumps. Protection starts within 2 weeks of getting the MMR vaccine. If you get the vaccine within 72 hours after being exposed to measles, you may get some protection; or have milder illness. Vaccines, like any medicine, can have side effects but they are usually mild and go away on their own (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccines/index.html>). To discuss vaccination, please reach out your child's(ren's) health care provider who can answer questions, and provide the vaccine.

**Brown County Public Health hosts monthly Vaccines for Children (VFC) clinics, including MMR vaccination.** Eligible children include those with no health insurance, those with Badger Care (Medicaid), or those who are American Indian or Alaska Native. Those who are under-insured can receive vaccinations at N.E.W. Community Clinic (call 920-437-7206). Register for a VFC clinic here: <https://www.stayhealthybc.com/residents/immunizations/childhood-vaccination-program/> (or by scanning this first QR code below).



**Unsure if you or your child(ren) are protected against measles?** Check your immunization records on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry website here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm> (or by scanning this QR code below).



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**If you think you have been exposed to measles and are having symptoms:** please call your medical provider and stay home! This will reduce the spread of measles, which is a **virus that spreads very easily from person to person and can linger in the air for 2 hours. A simple stop at a store could infect up to 9-12 others in just a short time.**

**Symptoms:**

High Fever (may spike to more than 104° F)

Cough

Runny Nose

Red, Watery Eyes

Rash that appears 3-5 days after first symptoms. Usually begins as flat red spots that appear on face at the hairline then spread downward to neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet.

**Infectious Period:** a person can spread the measles virus 4 days before to 4 days after the rash shows up. In total, the infectious period is 9 days, start of rash day 0.

**If you need to seek medical care:** please **call ahead** and alert that health care facility that you believe you have been exposed to measles and are seeking care for symptoms. This allows the health care facility time to prepare and properly protect themselves and others in the facility.

**For more information visit:** <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/signs-symptoms/index.html>

**Also, a friendly reminder that DHS has an Exclusion Policy:** Per DHS 144.07, (10) "If a substantial outbreak, as defined in s. DHS 144.02 (21), occurs in a school or child care center, or in the municipality in which a school or child care center is located, the school or child care center shall exclude students who have not received all required immunizations against the disease, including students in all grades who have not had 2 doses of measles vaccine, when it is an outbreak of measles that is occurring, when ordered to do so by the department. The exclusion shall last until the student is immunized or until the department determines that the outbreak has subsided." (Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter DHS 144)

*We can all work together to keep you, your child(ren), and Brown County safe and healthy.*

*Thank you,  
Brown County Public Health*