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Dear Pace School Parent/Guardian:

Measles cases are on the rise in the state of Pennsylvania. Across the Commonwealth, schools are being asked to share pertinent information with families regarding the seriousness of this highly contagious illness.

What You Should Know:

- **Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that can spread through the air, often when an infected person coughs or sneezes.** The virus can linger on surfaces and in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area. Common symptoms include:
 - Rash
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Runny nose
 - Red, watery eyes
- **Individuals are contagious from four days before to four days after the rash appears.** Symptoms usually appear 7–14 days after exposure but can take up to 21 days.
- **Vaccines provide the best protection against getting sick from measles, specifically two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.** Two doses of MMR vaccine provide approximately 97% protection; one dose offers 93% protection. Most people who are vaccinated with MMR will be protected for life.

If your child is **not** up to date on their MMR vaccine, please contact your health care provider for information about available vaccination options and next steps.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to ensure that our community remains healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amira McLemore Wolfson

CEO, Pace School