CENTRAL GREENE SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEASLES RESPONSE PLAN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide the Central Greene School District with a clear and coordinated response to a suspected or confirmed case of measles. This plan is based on the CDC *Preparing and Responding to Measles: Checklist for K–12 Schools* and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) guidance.

All suspected and confirmed cases will be managed in coordination with **PA DOH/public health authorities**, who will direct case investigation, exposure assessment, exclusion, post-exposure prophylaxis, and outbreak-control measures.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

School Nurse / CSN

- Recognize measles symptoms
- Immediately mask and isolate the individual.
- Notify parent/guardian when appropriate.
- Report suspected measles immediately to PA DOH.
- Review immunization records and provide information requested by public health.
- Assist with identifying potential exposures.
- Maintain confidential documentation and exposure records.
- Implement public-health-directed exclusion and return-to-school requirements.
- Maintain a list of students who are under-immunized (catch-up plans/homeless exempt, etc.) have medical/religious/moral exemptions from immunizations as well as those who are immunocompromised.

Principal / Administration

- Support isolation and infection-control procedures.
- Notify District administration.
- Assist with identifying classrooms, transportation, activities, and other potential exposure locations.
- Coordinate District communication.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Implement operational decisions made in consultation with public health.

Staff

- Immediately refer students with measles-like symptoms to the school nurse.
- Do not tell students you suspect measles; send them to the health office for evaluation.
- Follow nurse/administrative instructions.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Do not independently notify families or distribute information about a suspected/confirmed case. District administration, the school nurse, and the DOH will communicate with families.

III. SUSPECTED MEASLES: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

When measles is suspected:

1. MASK

Place a well-fitting mask on the individual when tolerated and appropriate.

2. ISOLATE

Immediately move the individual to the designated isolation area and minimize contact with others.

3. NOTIFY

For students, contact the parent/guardian and arrange appropriate pickup/medical evaluation. Advise the family to **call the healthcare provider before arriving** and report that measles is suspected.

4. REPORT

Immediately notify:

Pennsylvania Department of Health
1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)

Do **not** wait for laboratory confirmation before reporting a suspected case.

5. DOCUMENT

Record:

- Symptoms and onset;
- Date/time of isolation;
- Classroom/schedule;
- Transportation;
- Activities attended;
- Potential contacts;
- Parent notification;
- Public health notification and instructions.

6. PRESERVE EXPOSURE INFORMATION

Retain attendance records, schedules, bus rosters, seating information, and activity records that may be needed for the public health investigation.

IV. AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL LEAVES

Because the measles virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours:

- Restrict access to the area used by the suspected case.
- Keep the area vacant for **at least two hours** after the individual leaves.
- Clean/disinfect the area according to CDC/facility guidance before reuse.

V. EXPOSURE RESPONSE

The District will work with PA DOH/public health to identify individuals who may have been exposed.

The school nurse will provide public health with appropriate information regarding:

- Classroom and schedule;
- Teachers and staff;
- Transportation;
- Cafeteria/recess;
- Athletics and extracurricular activities;
- Field trips and assemblies;
- Other locations visited during the infectious period.

Public health will determine who is considered exposed and what action is required.

The District will not independently determine quarantine, exclusion, vaccination, or post-exposure treatment.

VI. EXCLUSION / RETURN TO SCHOOL

General exclusion guidelines: All decisions to exclude children and staff should be made in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) or the local health department (LHD).

Situation	Action
Suspected measles	Immediately isolate and report to public health.
Children and staff who have measles	Exclude until they are no longer contagious: through 4 days after rash onset.
Exposed children and staff without proof of immunity	Exclude from day 5 after the first exposure through day 21 following the last exposure.
Exposed person with evidence of immunity	Follow public health monitoring instructions.
Student with a vaccine exemption	May be excluded during an outbreak as directed by public health.
Exposed individual who develops symptoms	Immediately isolate and notify public health.
Return to school	Follow PA DOH/LHD requirements.

The District will inform families of unvaccinated children and unvaccinated staff that they **may** need to stay home for up to 21 days each time they are near someone who has measles. Additional exposures may extend the exclusion period because the end date is based on the last exposure. PA DOH/LHD will determine individual exclusion and return requirements.

VII. POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

PA DOH/public health will determine whether an exposed individual should receive:

• MMR vaccine; or
• Immune globulin.

The District will assist by identifying potentially susceptible students/staff and communicating public health instructions to families and employees.

VIII. COMMUNICATION

The Superintendent/designee will coordinate District-wide communication.
All communications will:

• Protect student confidentiality;
• Avoid identifying the affected individual;
• Avoid identifying students as vaccinated/unvaccinated;
• Provide factual information;
• Follow guidance provided by public health.

Teachers and staff should not communicate information about a suspected or confirmed case to families independently.

Parent/Guardian Notification

When notification is directed by public health, families will be informed of:

- The potential exposure;
- Symptoms to monitor;
- Instructions regarding attendance;
- When to contact a healthcare provider;
- How to contact public health for questions.

IX. OUTBREAK RESPONSE

If PA DOH determines that an outbreak or significant exposure has occurred, the District will:

1. Activate this plan.
2. Maintain communication with public health.
3. Review immunization records.
4. Identify and monitor exposed individuals.
5. Implement the required exclusion.
6. Assist with vaccination/PEP efforts when requested.
7. Monitor absenteeism and new illnesses.
8. Address transportation and extracurricular exposures.
9. Provide educational continuity for excluded students.
10. Communicate additional instructions to staff and families.

School closure is not automatic. Decisions regarding closure, activity cancellation, or other operational restrictions will be made in consultation with public health, the superintendent, and school health professionals.

X. PREPAREDNESS

Each District building will maintain:

☐ Designated measles isolation area
☐ Backup isolation location
☐ Current nurse/public health contact information
☐ Accessible student immunization records
☐ Suspected measles response checklist
☐ Exposure line-list form
☐ Parent/staff notification templates
☐ Educational continuity procedure
☐ Staff awareness of measles symptoms and reporting procedures

KEY CONTACT

Pennsylvania Department of Health (will update with direct contact when available)
1-877-PA-HEALTH
1-877-724-3258

Suspected measles should be reported immediately.

Primary References

- CDC — *Preparing and Responding to Measles: Checklist for K–12 Schools*
- Pennsylvania Department of Health — *Measles Guidance for Schools and Child Care*
- Pennsylvania Department of Health — School Health/Communicable Disease Guidance
- 28 Pa. Code §27.160 — Special Requirements for Measles
- 28 Pa. Code §27.71 — Exclusion Requirements