

## **ALERT - The Chicago Department of Public Health has recommended an accelerated dose of the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine for children in daycare or school settings.**

Recently there have been cases of measles in the community with an unknown source of exposure. Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable illness. MMR vaccine is highly effective (93-95% after one dose and 97-99% after two doses) and immunity is lifelong.

**To help stop the spread of measles**, the Chicago Department of Public Health recommends:

- All children should get their **first dose** of MMR vaccine *as soon as possible* after their first birthday
- An **early second dose** of MMR vaccine (typically given at the 4-year visit) **is currently recommended for all children in school or daycare.** (Dose 2 can be given as soon as 28 days after dose 1.)
  - An additional dose at 4-6 years old will not be required for those receiving an accelerated dose 2. This dose will meet the Illinois vaccination requirement for school enrollment.
- If traveling outside of the United States before the first birthday, an extra, early dose is recommended for those children 6-11 months of age. This does not count towards the 2 required doses for lasting immunity or school entry.

**To schedule your child's MMR vaccine, message us or schedule an Immunization Visit through MyChart** (choose the MMR Vaccine option). You can also **add a sibling** for the vaccine to an existing appointment by sending a MyChart message to the staff ahead of time. Additional Shot Clinic dates are being added as resources allow, so check back if you don't see a date that works for you.

**How does Measles present?** Measles symptoms appear 7 to 14 days after contact and typically include high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. Measles rash appears 3 to 5 days after the first symptoms.

### **Why is Measles serious?**

- About 1 in 5 people in the U.S. who get measles will be hospitalized
- As many as 1 in 20 children will get pneumonia
- 1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling, which could lead to brain damage
- 1 to 3 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, *even with the best care*

**If you think your child may have measles-compatible symptoms (See CDC link below) or may have been exposed, please stay home, and call our office before coming in.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/parents-top4.html>