



December 6, 2018

Dear Principal:

There is an outbreak of measles in the Orthodox Jewish communities of Williamsburg and Borough Park. Measles cases have also been confirmed in Bensonhurst and Midwood/Marine Park.

**Effective Friday, December 7th**, every student attending a yeshiva in the below zip codes in Borough Park and Williamsburg who **is not vaccinated with the required number of doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine will not be permitted to attend school, regardless of whether a case of measles has occurred in the school.** This includes students who attend a childcare program serving the orthodox community, yeshivas with a child care program, or a yeshiva with any grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

The affected zip codes may change and be updated based on the epidemiology and incidence of new cases of measles; current zip codes for school exclusion are:

- 11204
- 11205
- 11206
- 11211
- 11218
- 11219
- 11220
- 11230
- 11249

**Students cannot return to school until they are appropriately vaccinated, or until the outbreak is declared over, even if they have an approved religious or medical exemption to measles immunization.** If a person in your school develops measles, additional restrictions apply.

As a reminder, for the 2018-2019 school year, for children attending daycare and pre-kindergarten, **one dose** of MMR is required; for children attending kindergarten through 12th grade, **two doses** are required. Results of blood work showing immunity to measles (measles IgG positive) is also acceptable. Documentation of disease history from a physician, without laboratory confirmation, is not acceptable.

**Students who are sick with measles must stay home from daycare or school until the 5<sup>th</sup> day after rash onset, as advised by the Health Department.**

**Principals or directors are responsible for enforcing exclusion of students and compliance with all school-required immunizations.** To ensure compliance, every yeshiva is subject to audit by the Department of Health, and noncompliance can result in Commissioners Orders and fines. [See Public Health Law §2164 and 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-1.] The full requirements are available at [www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sh65-medical-immunization-requirements](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/sh65-medical-immunization-requirements).

**Please share the attached letter with all parents of students in your school so that they are aware of the measles outbreak.** The letter informs parents that students without the required number of doses of MMR vaccine due to religious or medical exemptions or due to non-compliance must be excluded from school for the duration of this outbreak.

Visit the Health Department's [website on measles](#), or [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search for "measles" for more information to help address questions that you, your staff or your students may have. Additional information about measles can be found at [cdc.gov/measles](http://cdc.gov/measles) and [immunize.org](http://immunize.org).

Your help ensuring that students are vaccinated and that proper outbreak control measures are taken is critical in preventing further spread of measles. Families should be directed to call their health care provider to get vaccinated. If they do not have a regular provider, they can call 311 to find a clinic nearby, or go to the Fort Greene immunization clinic at 295 Flatbush Ave Ext, Brooklyn, NY.

Please contact the Department of Health's Bureau of Immunization if you have questions about school immunization requirements or this letter (347-396-2433). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization

Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Disease Control