

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

April 20, 2015

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the status of the measles situation in Florida and encourage you to take preventative action. Several cases of measles in visitors to Florida have been recorded this year and now a case of locally acquired measles in a Florida resident living south of Brevard County has been reported.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine preventable disease that is transmitted when an infected individual coughs or sneezes. The time it takes to develop the disease once exposed to a case of measles averages 10-12 days. For more information, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/measles/index.html>. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measles webpage is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/>.

Current vaccination recommendations are two doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine for children in kindergarten and older. MMR is approximately 99% effective in preventing measles.

- If your child is vaccinated with two doses of MMR, they are at very minimal risk of catching measles should it occur. Children following the recommended immunization schedule receive their first MMR vaccine at 12 months of age and the second dose at 4-5 years of age.
- If your child is NOT vaccinated, the best protection against measles is to get vaccinated. For unvaccinated students, the school district is required to exclude unimmunized children from attending school for a minimum of 21 days from the time of the last exposure to measles.

The department encourages all Floridians who have not been immunized to get vaccinated immediately. Vaccinations are available through the Florida Department of Health in Brevard County or your doctor's office for little or no cost.

If you have questions, please contact your physician or the school health office at 321-454-7134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heshmati M.D." with a period at the end.

Heidar Heshmati, MD, MPH, PhD
Director