

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Update on measles in Vancouver schools

To students, parents, and staff of Vancouver schools,

As you may have heard, a few (8) students and staff in a handful (6) of Vancouver schools have fallen sick with measles. There is an outbreak of measles in several regions of BC, but at this time it is centered in the Lower Mainland.

Measles has become very rare in Canada. Thanks to vaccine, most children in Canada can't catch measles. Most cases now occur in those who did not get the vaccine, after a traveler has brought the virus to Canada. Sometimes, people who only had one dose of vaccine can catch it as well. Two doses of any measles vaccine work very well to prevent infection.

Everyone born after 1956 (and who has not had measles itself) should have two doses of measles vaccine. It is extremely safe and available for free from your family physician, public health units, and community health centres.

All parents and staff should check their vaccination records and those of their children to make sure they have had two doses of measles vaccine. In BC, children usually receive the MMR (Measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine at 12 and 18 months of age.

If your child has not had measles vaccine, and is exposed to someone with measles in his or her class, your child may be excluded from school for up to three weeks or longer. This is to protect others and keep measles from spreading in school. Exclusion disrupts family and school life greatly. We all want to avoid it.

Now is the time to make sure all students and staff members are protected against measles. Born after 1956? You need two doses of vaccine or to be certain you had measles itself.

Need more information? You can find clear information you can trust at ImmunizeBC (<http://www.immunizebc.ca>). Your family physician, nurse practitioner, public health nurse, and HealthLink BC (8-1-1) will also answer your questions about measles and MMR vaccine.

Yours sincerely,

John Carsley

John Carsley MD MSc FRCPC

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Important Information – Please Translate

这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯

اطلاعات مهم- لطفا ترجمه کنید

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Informations importantes – Veuillez traduire, s.v.p.!

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

Важная информация!Переведите,пожалуйста

Información importante - Por favor traducir

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin phiên dịch