



# MASON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

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## Health Advisory –

To All Mason County residents:

A large measles outbreak is happening in Clark County in southwest Washington. Additionally, King County and Multnomah County, Oregon just confirmed measles cases. Majority of the cases involve individuals who are unvaccinated. So far there are NO confirmed reports of measles in Mason County. When a case of measles is suspected, health care providers are required to report the case to Mason County Public health for investigation. This is the only way we can control the disease if it does arrive in Mason County.

Measles is a serious disease that can cause brain, spinal cord and lung infections and death. Measles is very contagious even before a rash appears. It spreads easily through the air and can stay in the air 2 hours after an infected person leaves an area. **Symptoms of measles can include any of the following: cough, runny nose, red and watery eyes, high fever, tiny white spots inside the mouth, and rash.** Two shots of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine can prevent measles almost 100% of the time. All it takes is 1 shot at 12 to 15 months of age and a second shot at 4 to 6 years of age. People not vaccinated on schedule can get 1 shot now and a second shot 1 month later.

Some children can't get the measles vaccine for medical reasons. Some children don't get the measles vaccine for personal or religious reasons. **If a case of measles occurs in school or an outbreak occurs in the community, children who do not meet school MMR vaccination requirements will not be allowed to attend school, for their own protection, until the disease is under control.**

The measles vaccine is safe and effective. We recommend your whole family be vaccinated, if you have never had the disease or vaccinated. Contact your healthcare provider or local pharmacy to get vaccinated.

Mason County Public Health urges parents who are concerned that they, or their children, may have symptoms of measles to call their healthcare provider **BEFORE** going to the medical office so that the healthcare provider can take precautions to avoid exposing others in the office to the measles virus. If you have any questions about your or your child's measles immunity or the measles vaccine, please contact your primary healthcare provider.

Measles virus does not appear out of the blue and is only spread by people who have the disease. Current outbreak is in Clark County, WA with various locations where exposure may have taken place. There is one case in Portland, Oregon and one in King Co, WA.

Mason County Public Health has the following recommendations:

- Vaccination is the best protection against measles. The measles vaccine (MMR) is safe and effective. Vaccinated individuals have immunity against measles.
- Individuals who are not vaccinated, are partially vaccinated, or have questions about their immunity should contact their healthcare provider to discuss travel to Clark County.



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- For more information about what is going on in Clark County, including measles exposure sites, visit: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation>

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Mason County Health Officer

### **Public Health**

Community Health/Environmental Health  
360-427-9670, ext. 274 or 360-275-4467, ext. 400  
415 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Shelton, WA 98584

*\*NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*