

February 21, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

School records indicate that your child or children may not be vaccinated for measles and mumps. In light of the serious measles outbreak in Washington State and an outbreak of mumps in the Bozeman area, we want to make sure all students are well-protected and that you are aware of the consequences an outbreak might have on your child's attendance at school and at school events. **As of February 20, there are no measles cases in Montana and no mumps cases in Yellowstone County.**

Getting the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) or MMRV (combined measles, mumps, rubella, varicella for chickenpox) vaccine provides the best protection against measles and mumps. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all students get two doses of the vaccine, except for those with medical exemptions. Both vaccines are safe and highly effective in preventing measles and mumps. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are 97 percent effective against measles and about 88 percent effective against mumps.

If there were confirmed cases of measles or mumps in **your child's school**, RiverStone Health, Yellowstone County's public health agency, may take action under state law to protect your child and other children.

- **In a measles or mumps outbreak, if your child does not have at least one dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) or MMRV vaccine, your child may be excluded from school and school activities for 21 or more days after the last exposure to a measles or mumps case in your school.**
- If your child gets at least one dose of MMR or MMRV, your child may return to school.
- **If your child has two doses of MMR or MMRV, your child is up-to-date with required measles and mumps vaccination and can attend school as usual.**

The RiverStone Health walk-in immunization clinic is open Monday and Friday from 1-4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be a special **MMR and MMRV immunization clinic from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 2.** If available, please bring your child's immunization record to the clinic. Immunization against measles and mumps can also be obtained through your child's healthcare provider.

The cost of immunizations should never be a reason for choosing not to vaccinate children. Under the federal Vaccines for Children program, eligible children, through age 18, can receive vaccines at no cost beyond an administration fee.

Thank you for working with us to protect your child's health. We have included information about measles and mumps with this letter.

Sincerely,



John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer  
President & CEO RiverStone Health