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## MEMORANUM

TO: Illinois Local Health Departments, Licensed Day Care Centers, Day Care Homes and Group Day Care Homes

FROM: Illinois Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Control Section

DATE: February 27, 2015

RE: Measles Disease – Prevention and Control in Congregate settings

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Recently, fifteen cases (12 children and three adults) of measles have been reported primarily in children less than one year of age who are associated with a day care center located in/ reside in Cook County. Contact tracing efforts are ongoing and additional suspect cases are being investigated.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus which often results in a serious illness. It spreads through the air through coughing and sneezing. Typically measles starts with a fever (often greater than 101° F), runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat, and is followed by a rash that generally appears first on the face and behind the ears. The rash generally progresses from head to toe eventually covering the body. About three out of ten people who get measles will develop one or more complications including pneumonia, ear infections, diarrhea or encephalitis. Complications are more common in adults and young children. Persons with measles are most infectious to others from four days **before** until four days **after** the rash appears.

Children with diarrhea and those with a rash combined with fever (oral temperature of 101° F or higher or under the arm temperature of 100° F or higher) shall not be admitted to the day care center or day care home while those symptoms persist, and shall be removed as soon as possible should these symptoms develop while the child is in care per [77 Ill. Adm. Code 690.50](#) of the Department of Public Health rules.

**The most effective means of preventing measles is to make sure all children are properly vaccinated according to their age.** The following requirements regarding vaccine requirements/proof of immunity against measles will also help in the prevention of measles disease.

According to the Department of Children and Family Services, any child receiving care from a day care center or a day care or group day care home, need to present a “**medical report**” to their attendance center. **The medical report shall indicate “the child has received the immunizations required by the Illinois Department of Public Health in its rules (77**

**Ill. Adm. Code 695, Immunization Code). These include poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae B hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox) or provide proof of immunity as described in the Illinois Department of Public Health Administrative Code. (see below)**

If an outbreak of measles occurs in a daycare center or day care home, children who are not considered to be fully immunized may need to be excluded from their day care center or day care home until at least 4 days after the appearance of the rash or possibly for as long as 21 days after onset of last known case. The acceptable types of immunity include the following:

- A) Written record from the student's physician or a health professional that indicates dates of vaccination and type of vaccine administered; or
- B) A statement from a physician indicating the date when the student had measles including proof of prior measles disease verified with the date of illness signed by a physician and confirmed by laboratory evidence; or
- C) A laboratory report indicating that the student has a protective measles antibody titer as measured by a test with demonstrable reliability

Any suspect or confirmed case of measles shall be reported to the local health department where the day care center or daycare home is located within 24 hours. If you become aware that a child in your center/home is going to seek medical attention because measles is suspected, please also notify the local health department so that proper procedures can be put in place to avoid additional exposures.

Thank you for the cooperation the Department has received from day care centers and day care homes that monitor and report the occurrence of infectious disease. A fact sheet about measles is enclosed for your use and to share with parents as desired.

Click the following link for additional information on [measles](#).