



## MASKWACIS CREE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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### Information for Parents – Measles Virus

Measles is showing up around the world, including in the USA and Europe where many people like to travel. Places in Canada have also had measles cases, including Alberta. The health of children and families at Maskwacis Cree Junior High is important to us. This information will help you and your family stay safe and healthy.

Measles is a virus that spreads easily through the air and can be dangerous to health. A person who has measles can spread it to other people by coughing, sneezing, yelling, or singing. People can spread measles to others before they have any symptoms or know they have measles. Your child can be protected by getting the measles vaccine.

Children usually receive two doses of measles vaccine before they start school. The first dose is usually given at 12 months of age and the second dose is given at 18 months of age. **Children who have both doses of measles vaccine are almost 100% protected from measles.** To check if your child has both of their vaccine doses for protection, please contact your health centre.

Children who did not get two vaccine doses are at risk of getting measles. Signs and symptoms of measles include:

- Fever with a temperature of 38.3°C or higher
- Cough, runny nose, and/or red watery eyes
- Red blotchy rash appearing 3 to 7 days after the fever started. The rash starts behind the ears and on the face and spreads down to the body and then to the arms and legs.

In serious cases, measles can also cause diarrhea, ear infections (which can lead to loss of hearing), pneumonia (lung infection), brain swelling, and seizures.

For more information on measles, call 8-1-1, visit the Alberta Health Services website [Measles Disease AHS Q & A](#), or talk to a nurse by calling the health centre.

**If you think your child has measles, keep your child at home and avoid being around other people.**

Call 8-1-1 or the health center **BEFORE** going in person to see a health care office, nurse or doctor.

**DO NOT** go to the community health center before you **call 8-1-1 or the health centre.**

School staff will be told if someone with measles has been to the school. Anyone who has not had two doses of the measles vaccine may be asked to stay home from school and other public activities for up to three weeks after the exposure, as this is how long it may take measles to develop. Most children and adults who have had two doses of the vaccine will be able to keep going to school or other activities.

All family members, including adults, should be protected against measles. Call the health centre to make sure all family members are up to date with their measles vaccine.

The school will continue to provide information about measles to parents and guardians. The health and safety of students, families, and staff is always important to us.

Sincerely,

Terrance Larocque  
Maskwacis Cree Junior High