

Parent Letter - Measles & Illness Precautions

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to inform you that the South Carolina Department of Public Health has confirmed multiple cases of measles in the Upstate area this year. Thus far, all the cases have been in unvaccinated individuals. While there are currently no cases in our schools or local school area, measles is highly contagious and can spread rapidly in schools and community settings. We are asking for your cooperation to protect all our students and staff, especially those too young or unable to be vaccinated.

As a parent, please consider the following recommendations provided by the South Carolina Department of Public Health:

- 1. Ensure your child's vaccinations are up to date.**
 - a. If you are unsure whether your child's immunizations are current, please check with your child's doctor or your local health department.
- 2. Keep children home when they are ill.**
 - a. If your child is showing symptoms — fever (temperature 100 or higher), especially fever accompanied by a rash or conjunctivitis — please keep them home, contact the school, and seek medical guidance. This helps prevent contagious illnesses from spreading to other students and staff. South Carolina law also mandates that students with certain contagious illnesses remain at home until they are no longer contagious. dph.sc.gov
- 3. Consult your healthcare provider immediately if you suspect measles.**
 - a. If your child develops symptoms consistent with measles, contact a medical provider before visiting the office so they can take proper precautions to prevent exposing others.
- 4. Please communicate with the school if your family has any special health considerations.**
 - a. If your child is immunocompromised or otherwise unable to receive vaccines, please notify your school nurse or administrator so we can provide additional protections for them.

We understand that these reminders may be concerning, but working together is one of our most effective tools for keeping everyone safe. Your cooperation plays a vital role in maintaining a healthy school community. If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse, your child's physician, or the local health department.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Media Release

Greenwood School District 50 Encourages Families to Take Precautions Amid Measles Cases in the Upstate

According to the South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH), several measles cases have been confirmed across the state this year, including recent cases in unvaccinated individuals in the Upstate. Because measles is highly contagious, school-aged children and community settings are at particular risk for transmission.

“Our top priority is keeping our students, staff, and families healthy and safe,” said Superintendent Shane Goodwin. The district is urging parents to take note of the following recommendations made by the South Carolina Department of Public Health:

- Check your child’s immunization records. According to the South Carolina Department of Public Health, the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is highly effective and required for school attendance in South Carolina unless a medical or religious exemption has been granted. Families should verify that all required vaccinations are up to date.
- Keep sick children at home. Students who are ill—especially those exhibiting symptoms such as fever along with a cough, runny nose, or rash—should stay home and consult a healthcare provider for evaluation.
- Contact a healthcare provider if measles is suspected. Parents should call ahead before bringing a child with suspected measles to a clinic or doctor’s office so precautions can be taken to prevent exposure to others.

The Department of Public Health provides detailed guidance on measles prevention and vaccination on its website at dph.sc.gov/measles.

“By working together and taking proactive steps, —like keeping sick children home and ensuring required vaccinations are up to date—we can help prevent the spread of illness in our schools,” added Superintendent Goodwin.

For additional information, contact your child’s school nurse or visit www.gwd50.org for district health updates.

Employee Letter - Measles & Illness Precautions

Dear Greenwood 50 Team,

The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed multiple cases of measles in the Upstate region. While there are currently no confirmed cases in our schools or local area, the contagious nature of measles requires us to remain proactive in protecting our students, staff, and community.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that spreads through coughing, sneezing, or contact with respiratory droplets. The virus can remain airborne for up to two hours after an infected person has left an area and is contagious from 4 days before the rash through 4 days after the rash appears. Symptoms typically appear 8-12 days after exposure and may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash that usually begins on the face and spreads downward

As an employee, please consider the following recommendations provided by the South Carolina Department of Public Health:

1. Review Your Immunization Status

- Ensure you have received two doses of the **MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella)** vaccine.
- Employees who are unsure of their vaccination status should contact their healthcare provider or local health department.
- If you were born before 1957, you are generally presumed to have natural immunity to measles.

2. Stay Home if You Are Sick

- If you develop symptoms consistent with measles or any contagious illness, **do not report to work.**

- Contact your healthcare provider for evaluation and notify your supervisor and school nurse immediately.
- Employees may be asked to provide medical clearance before returning to work following a suspected illness.

3. If You Believe You Have Been Exposed to Measles

- Notify your school nurse or supervisor right away.
- DPH may recommend testing, quarantine, or vaccination depending on your immunity status.
- Follow all directions provided by healthcare professionals and district leadership.

4. Practice Preventive Health Habits

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, or eyes with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Regularly disinfect commonly touched surfaces in classrooms and offices.

5. Support Student and Family Communication

- Encourage families to keep sick children home and to stay current with required immunizations.
- Refer all community or media questions or inquiries to the District Communications Office to ensure consistent messaging and response.

We appreciate your continued commitment to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Our district will continue to work closely with DPH and local health authorities to monitor the situation and share timely updates.

If you have questions or concerns about your health status or school procedures, please contact your school nurse or local healthcare provider.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued dedication to maintaining safe and healthy learning environments for all.