IMPORTANT MEASLES UPDATE
FROM THE SMMUSD SUPERINTENDENT

Dear parents and staff of SMMUSD,

As we communicated to you on Sunday, we have one confirmed case of measles by an infant at the Infant Toddler Center (ITC) on the campus of Santa Monica High School. Today, we would like to provide you with follow up information.

Under the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), we have taken the following actions:

Both the Infant Room and Toddler Room are currently closed. Administration is working to determine the reopening date. The families involved will be contacted with updates and plans. Our goal is to reopen the center as soon as possible.

**Infant Room** – The parents of 14 infants in that room have been contacted directly by the DPH and they have recommended that the babies stay home and not be in public for 21 days. The one infant with the measles is at home and improving daily. We do not know where this infant contracted the disease. Some infants in this room are over 12 months old and have been immunized. They will follow the guidelines required of the toddlers.

**Toddler Room** – When the center reopens, all parents must show proof of protection from the measles, by getting a blood test and a “titer” from their pediatricians. The toddler will only be readmitted to the center with this proof.

A letter from Dr. Jan King, MD., M.P.H., DPH area health officer, is going out to all families in the ITC today. A copy of the letter is attached. Our ITC staff has also been in touch with the families with infants and toddlers at this center. We understand the inconvenience these actions are causing some of our staff and community members. The priority is the health of the entire school community, which includes preventing the transmission of measles to additional students and staff.

In addition, the DPH has today recommended that 13 parents of these infants and toddlers, who are teachers in SMMUSD, be required to have a blood test done and proof of protection by providing a “titer,” prior to resuming work at their school sites. Alternately, they may provide proof of two MMR immunizations.
Santa Monica High School is working with DPH to ensure that all exposed persons get the care (including vaccinations) they need and are excluded as indicated.

All parents should ensure that their kids have the required two doses of MMR to make certain students are protected from measles. If a child has received two doses of MMR, they are protected against this disease and should continue to attend school to avoid missing class instruction and falling behind.

If a high school student has not been vaccinated, they should be vaccinated now. If they do not have insurance, the Venice Family Clinic on the Samohi campus (Thursday morning) or they can be vaccinated through Public Health. They will have someone available to vaccinate today, Thursday and Friday at 2509 Pico Blvd, Suite 320. Please call them at 310-998-3204 for more information and hours.

If a parent is unclear of their or their child’s vaccination status, their physician can draw a blood test to determine immunity.

The DPH has a measles fact sheet online at: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/hea/library/topics/measles/CDCP-IP-0012-01.pdf

Here is an article on this issue entitled Unvaccinated Students May Be Subject to Exclusion from School Based on Measles Exposure that explains the State Health Code: http://www.aalrreducationlaw.com/unvaccinated-students-may-be-subject-to-exclusion-from-school-based-on-measles-exposure/

Once again, please refer to my letter from last week that detailed three medical facilities where vaccinations are available in addition to the DPH location: http://www.smmusd.org/press/press1415/SuptLetter-Measles.htm

Thank you.

Sandra Lyon
Superintendent
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District