



COUNTY OF ORANGE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

May 20, 2019

Summer Camp Operator  
Street Address  
Orange County, New York

Re: Exclusion of under-vaccinated and unvaccinated **campers**.

Dear Summer Camp Administrator,

There has been an increase in the number of cases of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) in the United States over the past several years. **The best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases is broad vaccination coverage.** As you may know, there have been several confirmed cases of measles in Orange County.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that in some cases may cause serious health complications and death. Children, immunocompromised individuals, and pregnant women are at an increased risk for death and severe complications resulting from this disease. Further, measles can live up to two hours in the air where an infected person coughed or sneezed, and 90% of non-immune individuals close to an infected person will also become infected. Individuals with a measles infection can spread it to others up to four days before developing a rash. As of the date of this letter, there are 33 confirmed cases of measles in Orange County, two of which have resulted in hospitalizations, with complications in several others. There have also been 225 cases of confirmed measles in Rockland County. Notably, this is the largest outbreak of measles in New York State since 1989, exceeding the 2013 measles outbreak.

**Therefore, to ensure that we are able to control the spread of this outbreak, to curb the propagation of disease, and take measures necessary to reduce morbidity and mortality, pursuant to Public Health Law, it is necessary that campers within your summer camp, as defined in Chapter 1 subpart 7-2.2 of the New York State Sanitary Code, that are not vaccinated as per the MMR guidelines outlined below are excluded from attendance.**

## **What Does the Camp Operator Need to Do?**

### **Confirm That All of Your Campers Have Their Measles Vaccination**

*Any camper* who has not received at least their first dose of MMR vaccine cannot be allowed to attend the day camp and/or children's overnight camp in Orange County, until such time that the accompanying Commissioner's Order is lifted.

Individuals are considered optimally protected against measles if they have had two doses of the MMR vaccine given at least 28 days apart.

If a confirmed case of measles has been identified at your camp, then all partially vaccinated campers (those who only had one MMR) must remain at home for 21 days after the last date of exposure at the camp, even if they receive their first dose of MMR during this time period.

### **What You Need to Submit to the Orange County Department of Health**

In order to ensure that unvaccinated and/or partially vaccinated campers are not attending summer day camp and/or children's overnight camp, you are required to submit the following information to the Orange County Department of Health (OCDOH):

(a) List of all campers who will attend the specified summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp, their dates of birth and the dates they received the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine.

(b) Notarized affirmation, affirmed under the penalties of perjury, containing the names of the partially vaccinated campers who will be excluded from your specified summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp, if a confirmed case of measles has been identified at your camp.

Submit the list and affirmation to the Orange County Department of Health, via e-mail to the attention of Debora Fagan/PHN at [dfagan@orangecountygov.com](mailto:dfagan@orangecountygov.com) and Lissette McNulty/RN at [lmcnulty@orangecountygov.com](mailto:lmcnulty@orangecountygov.com), prior to the start of each new camping session and/or prior to when a new camper begins attending the camp out of sequence with other campers until this order of vaccination/ exclusion is lifted.

### **Maintaining Vaccination Records**

Subpart 7-2 of the New York State Sanitary Code requires camps to maintain immunization records for all campers which include dates for all immunizations against diphtheria, haemophilus influenza type b, hepatitis b, measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis, tetanus and varicella (chickenpox). The current, complete immunization record must be kept on file for every camper and updated annually, prior to the beginning of operation, as well as on an ongoing basis to accommodate any campers joining select sessions.

## Monitoring and Recognizing Measles

To prevent measles from entering and spreading in camp, it is important to screen all campers at the time of camp entry for any signs of illness, and for recent measles exposure.

Symptoms usually appear about 7 to 14 days after a person is exposed to measles but can take as long as 21 days. Symptoms generally appear in two stages. In the first stage, which lasts two to four days, the individual may have a runny nose, cough and a slight fever. Eyes may become reddened and sensitive to light while the fever gradually rises each day, often peaking as high as 103° to 105° F. Small bluish white spots surrounded by a reddish area may also appear on the inside of the mouth.

The second stage begins on the third to seventh day and consists of a red blotchy rash lasting five to six days. The rash usually begins on the face and then spreads downward and outward, reaching the hands and feet. The rash fades in the same order that it appeared, from head to lower extremities. A person can spread measles from four days before the onset of rash through four days after the rash begins. Although measles is usually considered a childhood disease, it can be contracted at any age.

If a camper develops any of these symptoms while at camp, it is critical that the camp health director or the camp director be notified right away. Steps should be taken to **immediately** isolate the individual away from other campers and staff, and airborne precautions should be implemented while the local health department and parent/guardian must be notified. These precautions should include placing the individual in a private room, such as a cabin or tent with a door that closes if possible, placing a mask on the individual and restricting susceptible individuals from entering the space. This is important to help protect other campers and staff from getting sick. Additionally, if an individual in whom measles is suspected requires transfer to a medical facility, it is imperative that the responding emergency medical services team be notified of the concern for measles so proper precautions can be taken to prevent further exposures.

This Department takes the safety of children that attend our camps in Orange County very seriously. Your cooperation in making sure that campers who attend your programs are properly vaccinated will help to ensure that this is a safe and happy summer. To effectuate these goals, enclosed is a Commissioner's Order relative to the current measles outbreak, seeking to prevent further spread of the disease.

If your summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp does not comply with the accompanying Commissioner's Order, enforcement actions will be taken which could result in the closure of your facility.

Sincerely,



Dr. Irina Gelman  
Commissioner of Health

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ORANGE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
-----X  
IN THE MATTER

OF  
  
THE SPRING 2019 MEASLES OUTBREAK IN  
ORANGE COUNTY

**ORDER OF THE  
ORANGE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER OF  
HEALTH**

Under and Pursuant to the Public Health Law of the  
State of New York  
-----X

TO: Summer Camp Operator  
Orange County, New York

RE: CAMPER VACCINATIONS

**WHEREAS**, as of the date of this Commissioner's Order, there are a total of 33 confirmed cases of measles in Orange County, as well as a growing number of newly suspect cases; and

**WHEREAS**, this is the largest outbreak of measles in New York State since 1989; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to New York Public Health Law §2100, §308(d), §1303 and §1304, the Commissioner of the Orange County Department of Health has the authority to make and publish orders and amend regulations as she may deem necessary for the preservation of life and health, and to effectuate and enforce the provisions of New York Public Health Law §2164 and other associated Rules and Regulations, including but not limited to those related to communicable diseases and outbreaks of diseases as defined in 10 NYCRR 2.2, and the Commissioner may further take any measures necessary to reduce morbidity and mortality pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.6 relative to campers at day and overnight summer camps as defined in 10 NYCRR 7-2.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Public Health Law of the State of New York as the Orange County Commissioner of Health,

**I DO HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT THAT:**

- 1) Any summer day camp and/or children's overnight camp operated in Orange County must maintain complete and accurate immunization records of all its campers.
- 2) Any camper who has not received at least his/her first dose of the MMR vaccine will be excluded from attending the day camp and/or children's overnight camp and must receive the second dose of the MMR vaccine after 28 days from receiving the first dose. The exclusion will

be effective until such time as this Order is no longer in effect as determined by the Orange County Commissioner of Health.

3) Any summer day camp and/or children's overnight camp operating in Orange County must submit a list of all campers who will attend the summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp, together with their dates of birth and the dates they received the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine to the Orange County Department of Health, via e-mail to the attention of Debora Fagan/PHN at [dfagan@orangecountygov.com](mailto:dfagan@orangecountygov.com) and Lissette McNulty/RN at [lmcnulty@orangecountygov.com](mailto:lmcnulty@orangecountygov.com), before each new day or overnight camp session begins.

4) **If a confirmed case of measles has been identified at your camp**, your facility must provide a notarized affirmation, affirmed under the penalties of perjury, identifying the names of the partially vaccinated campers who will be excluded from your specified summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp. (A sample affirmation is attached hereto.)

Pursuant to Public Health Law § 309, failure to comply with this Commissioner's Order may result in legal action, including but not limited to requiring your attendance at an administrative hearing, and may further result in the imposition of penalties in an amount not exceeding two thousand dollars for a single violation or failure to adhere to any of the provisions of this Order.

A true copy of this Commissioner's Order is to be posted at the summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp.

Dated: May 20, 2019  
Goshen, New York



---

**DR. IRINA GELMAN, DPM, MPH, PhDc**  
**COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**