

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Health

Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner

May 23, 2019

Dear Summer Camp Operator:

In follow-up to our Camp Workshop, I am writing to confirm what is required regarding immunizations and what you can expect should there be a case of measles at your facility this summer.

In New York State, summer camps are required to maintain immunization records for all campers. The Department's Sanitarians will be checking that you are in compliance with this requirement. For health and safety reasons, **it is strongly recommended that all campers and staff meet the age-appropriate immunization schedule as set forth by the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices and campers, at a minimum, should meet the same immunization requirements as school-age children.**

As a camp, you may elect to establish a stronger policy that requires specific immunizations for your campers and/or staff.

In the event of a measles case or other vaccine preventable disease, a rapid response must be initiated. **We strongly recommend that you use the attached tracking form** to record all campers and staff who have received less than two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine as well as other immunizations.

If there is a case of measles at your camp, or within a certain radius of your camp, the Health Department will exclude all unvaccinated and under vaccinated campers and staff from attending your camp until cleared by this Department to return. This will include those who have only had one MMR vaccination, even if they are following the recognized vaccine schedule such as a 4 year old child. You must evaluate your camp's capacity to implement your safety plan requirements should all your unvaccinated and under vaccinated staff be excluded from work. Unfortunately, there is the potential that a single case of measles could force your facility to cease operation.

The best protection against measles is the MMR vaccine. Anyone in need of MMR vaccination can receive the vaccine free of charge at one of our Health Department Immunization Clinics. Please encourage your campers and staff who are unvaccinated or under vaccinated to call us at 914-995-5800 to schedule an appointment. MMR vaccine is also available through private health care providers and is covered by most insurers.

Should you have any questions, or require additional guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out us. The Health Department's main information line is 914-813-5000. There is also general information about measles, as well as information specific to summer camps, available on our website at www.westchestergov.com/health.

Sincerely,



Sherlita Amler, MD