



# ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**PATRICK K. RYAN**  
*County Executive*

**CAROL M. SMITH, MD, MPH**  
*Commissioner of Health and Mental Health*

June 2019

Dear Camp Administrator:

There has been an alarming increase in the number of vaccine-preventable cases of measles in our region of New York State over the past several months. Notably, this is the largest outbreak of measles in New York State since 1989.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that in some cases may cause serious health complications or death. Children, immunocompromised individuals, and pregnant women are at an increased risk for severe complications or death resulting from this disease.

Measles can live up to two hours in the air where an infected person coughed or sneezed, and 90% of non-immune individuals, exposed to a person with measles, will also become infected with the virus. Individuals infected with measles can spread it to others up to four days before developing a rash or other symptoms.

The Ulster County Commissioner of Health has taken measures pursuant to Public Health Law to ensure that Department of Health staff and the Ulster County Board of Health are able to control the spread of this disease in Ulster County. These measures are necessary to reduce morbidity and mortality secondary to measles, as defined in the New York State Sanitary Code Chapter 1 Subpart 7-2. Therefore, all day and overnight camps classified as “Children’s Camps” in Ulster County shall only admit campers and staff members (including volunteers) who show documentation of acceptable evidence of immunity to measles or proof of a valid medical exemption. Measles immunity is required as per the Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) guidelines outlined below. Please note individuals are considered optimally protected against measles if they have had two doses of the MMR vaccine given at least twenty-eight (28) days apart.

## What Does the Camp Director Need to Do?

- Confirm and provide documentation that all campers and staff members have provided acceptable evidence of immunity or a valid medical exemption. Each camper and staff member must provide at least one of the following:
  - Written documentation from a healthcare provider of one or more doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered on or after the first birthday for preschool-age children and adults not at high risk, or two doses of measles-containing vaccine for school-age children and adults at high risk, including college students, healthcare personnel, international travel, and those in outbreak areas;
  - Laboratory evidence of immunity;
  - Laboratory confirmation of measles; or
  - Birth before 1957 in the United States;
  - Valid medical exemption signed by a healthcare provider.

- Allow NO campers or staff members who have not received at least their first dose of MMR vaccine to attend a day camp and/or children's overnight camp in Ulster County, until such time that the accompanying Commissioner's Order is lifted. Campers or staff members who have provided proof that the first dose of the MMR vaccine was administered and have an appointment to complete the second dose of the MMR vaccine after twenty-eight (28) days from the date that the first dose was administered.
- Ensure that your Camp Health Director conducts a complete initial health screening for all campers and staff members.

### What Camp Directors Need to Submit to the Ulster County Department of Health

In order to ensure that only immune or medically exempt campers and staff members are attending summer day camp and/or children's overnight camps, you are required to submit the following information to the Ulster County Department of Health (UCDOH):

A notarized affidavit, affirming under penalties of perjury, that the camp is maintaining immunization records for every camper and staff member as outlined below, as well as a completed "Camper/Staff Measles Immunization Records Summary to Identify Potentially Susceptible Individuals." Copies of both the affidavit and the records summary are attached and are available on our website.

Submit the affidavit to the Ulster County Department of Health, via e-mail to Denise Woodvine at [dwoo@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:dwoo@co.ulster.ny.us) or Laura Bell at [lbur@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:lbur@co.ulster.ny.us) prior to the start of the camp season.

### Maintaining Vaccination Records

All children's day and overnight camps must maintain a list of all campers and staff members who will attend the specified summer day camp and/or children's overnight camp, including their dates of birth and the dates they received the MMR vaccine or proof of a valid medical exemption.

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.

The Ulster County Commissioner of Health and the Ulster County Board of Health takes the health and safety of individuals who attend camps in Ulster County very seriously. Your cooperation in making sure that campers and staff members who attend your program are immune or properly vaccinated will help to ensure that all individuals at your facility have a healthy camp experience. An Ulster County Health Commissioner's Order issued with the intent to prevent the spread of this highly communicable disease is attached.

If your summer day camp, and/or children's overnight camp does not comply with the Commissioner's Order, enforcement action may be taken. If a permitted camp experiences an outbreak of measles, an investigation will be conducted in accordance with disease outbreak protocols.

We appreciate your cooperation and wish you a successful camp season. Should you have any questions, please contact my office, (845) 340-3009.

Sincerely,

Carol M. Smith, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner of Health