



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

"To promote health and wellness with compassion and integrity through partnerships, education, protection, and advocacy for all who reside in and visit St. Joseph County"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Now Is the Time to Vaccinate Against Measles

The St. Joseph County Department of Health is strongly encouraging individuals in St. Joseph County to get vaccinated against measles or to know their current vaccination status. Across the country, 15 states, including Indiana, have reported at least one case in an unvaccinated individual. Spring break is rapidly approaching as families and friends begin to travel, it is best to fly protected.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness; 90 percent of unvaccinated people who are exposed to measles will become sick, and about one in five may require hospitalization. Exposed individuals who do not have evidence of immunity to measles should be encouraged to be vaccinated and should quarantine and monitor for signs and symptoms for 21 days after exposure if not vaccinated. Appropriate infection control practices should be implemented in healthcare facilities when caring for patients suspected of having measles.

More than 93 percent of people who receive a single dose of MMR will develop immunity to measles, and more than 97 percent will be protected after receiving a second dose. Two doses of the vaccine are needed to be fully protected. Individuals are encouraged to check with their healthcare providers to ensure vaccinations are up to date. Individuals born before 1957 are presumed to be immune to measles.

Children are routinely vaccinated for measles at 12-15 months, and again at 4-6 years of age before going to kindergarten, but children as young as 6 months old can receive the measles vaccine if they are at risk. Because some children are too young to be immunized, it's important that those around them are vaccinated to protect them.

Individuals that want to schedule an appointment for the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine, can do so online at www.sjcindiana.com/health. It is not too late to be protected.

For more information on measles please visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

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