



## Department of Public Health

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## Public Health Notice

July 18, 2019

Dear

After 25 years of having no measles cases in El Paso County, measles has been reported in El Paso this summer. To-date, we have identified four cases of measles in three children and one adult. One of the children with measles attends a local daycare.

We are fortunate, that as a community, we have very high immunization rates against measles which reduces the quick spread of this highly contagious and dangerous disease. However, even though our immunization rates are very good, this is no time for complacency.

We are requesting that you be extra vigilant in the review of your attendees' immunization records, particularly as relates to measles. The state of Texas allows daycares to "provisionally" enroll attendees who have received at least one dose of the measles vaccine. For the remainder of 2019, we are recommending that provisional enrollment for partially vaccinated attendees be suspended for those who are of full immunization age (4-6 years old). Requiring the second shot for the older attendees will help protect other children and staff.

We further recommend that you carefully review the Texas Administrative Code, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter A, Rule 97.7 – Diseases Requiring Exclusion from Schools – particularly the section regarding measles. In general, day care administrators are to exclude students who meet the defined criteria, while physicians or health authorities determine and authorize readmissions after the student is deemed to be no longer infectious.

Please feel free to call our Epidemiology team at (915) 212-6520 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert Resendes, MBA, MT (ASCP)  
Public Health Director

Hector Ocaranza, M.D., MPH  
Public Health Authority  
El Paso City/County

Robert Resendes – Public Health Director  
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