Date

Dear Parents,

According to the California Department of Public Health, there are now \_\_\_\_ cases of confirmed measles cases in California. As you may know, Measles is a highly infectious, airborne disease that typically begins with fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes, and within a few days a red rash appears, usually first on the face and then spreading downward to the rest of the body. The measles virus can live for up to two hours on a surface or in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected. Infected people can spread measles to others from four days before to four days after the [rash](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/signs-symptoms.html) appears. About three out of 10 people who get measles will develop one or more complications including pneumonia, ear infections, or diarrhea. Complications are more common in adults and young children.

With this information, if your child has not been vaccinated for the measles and is eligible for vaccination, it is urgent that you contact your healthcare provider and have your son or daughter vaccinated. There are some populations that are unable to be vaccinated against the measles and therefore having others who can be vaccinated helps protects individuals that are unable to receive vaccine. These individuals that are unable to be vaccinated may include, but are not limited, to very young infants and children (less than 5 months old), immunocompromised children or adults such as those with leukemia, cancer and HIV infection, and pregnant women.

If you believe your son or daughter may have been exposed to the measles, please keep them home and contact your health care provider for next steps as well as the school to inform them. If a case of measles appears within our school community, students that have not received the measles vaccine will be sent home (excluded) from school. Should you have additional questions, please contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,

School Nurse