August 20, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Measles outbreaks are happening in Ohio and the US. We want to share key information to protect our community, even though there are no cases in Lorain County (as of this letter's date) according to Lorain County Public Health.

**Measles is highly contagious** and can be serious, especially for young children. In the U.S., about 1 in 5 unvaccinated people who get measles require hospitalization. Serious complications like pneumonia are also a risk, especially for children under age 5.

If one person has measles, up to 90% of the people around them who are not protected (by vaccination or prior infection) will also get measles. It spreads through the air and can stay in a room for up to 2 hours after the sick person leaves.

Unvaccinated students exposed to measles may need to stay home for 21 days to watch for symptoms and avoid spreading it to others.

**Symptoms of measles:** Fever, cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes, white spots in the mouth, rash. Symptoms appear 7-21 days after exposure.

The best protection against measles is the MMR vaccine. Two doses are about 97% effective. The CDC recommends the first dose at 12-15 months and the second at 4-6 years old.

**Please check your child's vaccination records (and yours too).** Options include:

- Contact your child's doctor.
- Check with previous schools or healthcare providers.
- Get your child's vaccine record from Lorain County Public Health at no cost: Request online at LorainCountyHealth.com/vaccines or call 440-284-3206.

If you or your child is not fully vaccinated, contact your healthcare provider or Lorain County Public Health at 440-284-3206 to discuss vaccination options. The MMR vaccine is safe and 97% effective at preventing measles.

Thank you for helping to keep our community healthy.

For more information, visit Measles | CDC and Measles | LCPH, and watch this video →