

# Dutchess County Department of Health

# Public Health Advisory\*

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Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive



Kari Reiber, MD  
Commissioner of Health

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## Outbreak Control for Vaccine Preventable Diseases

### Guidance for Schools & Colleges

Friday, January 30, 2015 – 5 pm

The Dutchess County Department of Health has been notified of a confirmed laboratory case of measles at Bard College. This local case highlights the importance of preparing for vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

As one of our partners in disease prevention, **your role is integral in the identification and prevention of disease spread in our schools and college. Identifying and maintaining a student roster highlighting student's vaccination status is crucial during an outbreak as it identifies which students are protected.** This information allows us to quickly provide prophylaxis or treatment, those students who are vulnerable reducing the potential exposure to others.

It may also be advisable to remind faculty and other staff that they should know their immune status so that they can quickly assess their risk if a case of a vaccine preventable disease were to occur on campus.

While the United States has historically maintained high-vaccination rates with measles eliminated in 2000, other countries have experienced an increase in outbreaks. International travel coupled with an increase in individuals choosing not to vaccinate against vaccine preventable diseases has contributed to an increase in cases in the United States.

With this in mind, the Dutchess County Department of Health ***is asking for your assistance with preventing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases on your campuses by maintaining a quickly accessible student immunization history roster to be used should an outbreak occur at your school*** The Department is available for any technical assistance you might require (845) 486-3402.

Symptoms of measles include fever as high as 105, cough, runny nose, redness of eyes, and a rash that begins at the head and then spreads to the rest of the body. It can lead to inflammation of the brain, pneumonia, and death. It is contagious 4 days before and 4 days after the onset of the rash. More information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html> and [www.cdc.gov/measles](http://www.cdc.gov/measles)

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\***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**Dutchess County Department of Health**

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