

## **BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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James Foudy, Superintendent

March 6, 2025

Dear Families,

## Subject: Important Information on Measles and School Health

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to keep you informed about a recent increase in measles cases across the country. As of March 3, 2025, active measles cases have been reported in at least ten U.S. states, including Washington, California, New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Alaska. Please note that case numbers and location areas can change rapidly. For the most current information, consult local health departments or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that starts on the face and spreads. For more information on measles signs and symptoms, visit the CDC's resource page <u>here</u>. The best protection against measles is vaccination, which is recommended for all school-aged children. The CDC recommends that children receive two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine—one at 12-15 months of age and a second at 4-6 years old. You can find more information about measles and vaccination guidelines from the CDC <u>here</u>.

Idaho law requires that children attending school be immunized against certain diseases, including measles, or that they have an exemption on file. You can find the full school-age vaccination schedule in Idaho <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>. If your child is not fully vaccinated and you wish to complete an exemption form, you can find the Idaho Immunization Requirements Exemption Form in <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u> that may be completed and provided to your child's school.

We encourage all families to stay informed and take necessary steps to protect their children's health. If you have any questions, please contact your healthcare provider or school nurse.

Thank you for helping us keep our schools healthy!