Statement on School Exclusion During Measles Outbreaks

November 25, 2026

During measles outbreaks, temporarily excluding students who are not vaccinated against measles or who are exhibiting symptoms is an important public health measure under Indiana Code 16-41-9-3. Indiana Immunization Coalition supports this practice as a necessary step to protect the health and safety of students, school staff, families, and the community.

Measles is one of the most contagious infectious diseases. A single infected person can spread the virus to up to 90% of susceptible people they come into contact with. Because measles spreads through the air and can remain infectious for up to two hours after an infected person has left a space, schools are particularly vulnerable environments for transmission.

Temporarily excluding students who are not vaccinated against measles, as well as those exhibiting symptoms, helps prevent further spread and protect those who are most vulnerable, including infants too young to be vaccinated and children and adults with compromised immune systems.

The MMR vaccine has a well-established safety record and is highly effective, providing approximately 97% protection against measles after two doses. Maintaining high vaccination rates is our strongest defense against outbreaks and helps ensure that children can attend school, learn, and participate in their communities safely.

Every child deserves a healthy environment in which to learn and grow. We support schools and local health departments in taking appropriate, evidence-based steps to prevent the spread of measles and protect the health of all Hoosier children and families.