



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Behavioral Health • Public Health • Children & Families
Economic Support • Business Services

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION | PUBLIC HEALTH

100 Polk County Plaza Suite 180, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

715.485.8400  | 715.500.2733 

www.polkcountywi.gov/polkcountycomms 

9/25/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported 1,491 measles cases in the U.S. in 2025 occurring in 42 states, now including 36 reported cases in Oconto County, Wisconsin. The Frederic School District in partnership with Polk County Public Health would like to take this opportunity to provide information about measles and how to prevent it so parents and guardians can make informed decisions.

Measles is a viral infection that causes fever, cough, a rash, sore eyes, and can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia or swelling of the brain. Measles is highly contagious and there is no cure, so it is important to protect against infection. Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent the disease.

Polk County and the state of Wisconsin have low vaccination rates in residents for the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Therefore, if a measles outbreak happens in Wisconsin, residents of Polk County may be at increased risk. Two doses of MMR vaccine provide the best protection against disease. The doses must be separated by at least 28 days. MMR vaccine is routinely recommended between 12-15 months and the second dose before entering school, at 4-6 years. Waivers to the school requirements are available for religious, health, and personal conviction reasons.

In the event of a case within the school or exposure in the community, students with vaccination waivers or without proof of immunity will be excluded from school for up to 21 days. **If your child is fully vaccinated or has proof of immunity they will not be excluded from school.**

Parents and guardians can check your child's immunization records by logging onto the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm>. You may also sign into your child's school immunization record on xxxxxx (include if applicable for your district). Polk County Public Health and/or your family health care provider may also have your child's immunization record.

If your child needs the MMR vaccine, please call your health care provider. If you have BadgerCare or no insurance, you may contact Polk County Public Health at 715-485-8400.

If your child does develop a rash with a fever or if they have been exposed to someone who has measles, they should not attend school and you should call your health care provider immediately. It is important to call the clinic or hospital before taking your child in. For more information on measles, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

Sincerely,
Polk County Public Health