

## Guidelines

### In Light of the Growing Concern of Measles in Illinois

With reported cases of Measles in Illinois we thought it would be a good time to remind everyone of the following.

1. Please refer to diocesan policy #4902, School Health Examinations and Immunizations, in the Principal's Handbook: *"In the event of an outbreak students who are not adequately immunized (and have a parent objection letter on file) must be removed from school for their own safety"*. Before you take action to remove the student:
  - Look over your local handbook policy
  - Check with your local health department
  - Talk with your Pastor
2. #4902 of the Principal's handbook also states: *"Schools need to maintain a susceptibility list of these students",... and ...."The parent(s) or guardian shall, however, present to the principal of the school a signed statement of their objection, detailing the grounds for such objection"*.
  - Maintain and review your susceptibility list of students who are not immunized due to chronic health condition or religious objection.
  - Review the file to ensure the parent has provided the principal with a signed statement of their objection.
3. Be aware of any staff that are not immunized against the Measles and have a plan for excluding them in the event of a Measles case in a school.
4. For parents issue a statement that the school would take precautions to inform parents of diseases that may be a threat to the student population and would, as much as possible, take steps to assist in preventing the spread of the communicable disease up to and including the temporary closing of the school.
  - Again, recommended to check with the local health department prior to taking action.
5. If a parent inquires the school can issue a statement about the number of students enrolled that are not immunized, but under no circumstances should the name(s) of the student(s) or their parent(s) be revealed as this is confidential information and should not be shared. Sharing this private information would be a violation of the HIPPA Law.
6. The decision to close the school should be made at the local level in consult with the Pastor and/or school board.