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Attention Parents:

Nearby Confirmed Mumps Cases: Make Sure Your Child is Vaccinated!

We know, as parents and guardians, you want to protect your child's health. In light of several confirmed cases of mumps that have been identified in a high school in a neighboring county, the Garrett County Health Department is reminding parents of the importance of vaccine.

Mumps is a serious disease caused by the mumps virus which infects the salivary glands. Symptoms can include fever, headache, and swollen glands. Mumps infection can lead to deafness, meningitis, swelling of the testicles or ovaries, and rarely, death. Before routine vaccination in the United States, mumps and its life-threatening complications were much more common in infants, children, and young adults. Mumps is spread by airborne droplets or close contact with respiratory secretions of a sick person.

Mumps vaccine can prevent mumps disease. Mumps vaccine is given as part of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine or MMRV (MMR plus varicella [chicken pox] vaccine).

Who needs the mumps vaccine?

- First dose at 12 through 15 months of age
- Second dose at 4 through 6 years of age (or at any age, as long as it is at least 28 days after the first dose)
- Persons who have not previously been vaccinated should get 2 doses
- Maryland schools require 2 doses of MMR vaccine

In a school outbreak situation, students not fully vaccinated will be advised to receive vaccine or face exclusion from school for 25 days after the last date of a potential exposure to a confirmed case of mumps. Also in an outbreak situation, adults with incomplete vaccine status or unknown disease history may need additional vaccine.

If you or your child have never been vaccinated, or are only partially vaccinated, now is the time.

For more information or to schedule MMR vaccine for yourself or your children, you may call your doctor, or the Garrett County Health Department at 301 334-7770 or 301 895-3111. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website also contains comprehensive information on mumps and mumps vaccine at www.cdc.gov/mumps.