



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Jane Zucker, MD
Assistant Commissioner,
Bureau of Immunization

October 19, 2009

NYC DOHMH
2 Lafayette St
New York, NY 10007

Dear Principal,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Bureau of Immunization (BOI), is investigating an outbreak of mumps within the orthodox community of Borough Park. The outbreak began among boys who attended summer camp Upstate. Cases have continued to occur since the onset of the school year and have occurred predominantly among school-age children. We are asking your assistance to help us stop the spread of mumps by doing the following:

- Make sure that all children are in compliance with state immunization requirements [preferably with two mumps containing vaccines as measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine].
- Contact the DOHMH Bureau of Immunization (212-676-2288 or 2284) immediately if you are made aware of any cases of mumps among your students.
- Make sure that students with mumps stay home until 5 days after their symptoms began, at which point they are no longer contagious.

Mumps is a viral infection which usually presents with fever, headache, and tender swollen salivary glands in one or both cheeks, just in front of the ears. Most people get better in about a week. Rarely, more serious complications of mumps can occur. These include hearing loss, inflammation of the brain or inflammation of other organs, such as the ovaries, breasts, and testicles. Mumps is spread by respiratory droplets, coughs and sneezes. People with mumps can spread the disease to others from 2 days before symptoms appear, to 5 days after they become ill. Frequent hand washing is important to help prevent the spread of infection. We encourage you to place hand-washing posters in classrooms and bathrooms. Hand-washing posters are available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/flu/html/public/posters.shtml>

Vaccination against mumps with two doses of MMR vaccine is the best way to reduce the risk of getting mumps. Children should receive their first dose of MMR vaccine at 12 months of age with a second dose at 4-6 years of age. Unvaccinated individuals are at highest risk of getting mumps; however, even those who are fully vaccinated may sometimes develop mumps. All individuals who are sick with mumps should stay home until they are no longer contagious (5 days after the start of illness), thus limiting the exposure of others. Your help with ensuring that all children are fully vaccinated and that sick children stay home from school is critical to preventing the spread of mumps.

Please contact Dr. Rosen at the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2284 or -2288 if you are notified about any student ill with mumps.

Please contact us with any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc