Measles Update at UMES

Campus Alert: June 11, 2019

To the UMES campus community,

As you may know, recently there has been national surge of measles cases. So far, 1,000 cases have been reported nationwide. There have been five cases of measles in Maryland, all confined to the following zip codes: 21209, 21208 and 21215. **No cases have been reported in Somerset County, Wicomico County or at UMES.** This important health message is for your protection, the protection of your family and the health of our community.

Measles is a disease which causes fever, cough, runny nose, eye irritation and a rash. It can cause more serious problems like lung, ear or brain infections, and in rare cases, death. **It is extremely contagious** and can live in the air for several hours in a location where an infected person has been.

Most people born and raised in the U.S. have been vaccinated against measles. Measles vaccine is required of all UMES students and enforced by a registration block. The state does allow a waiver based on religion or medical conditions that would preclude administration of the vaccine.

Given this current situation, we recommend that you take the following action:

- Contact your healthcare provider, or review your immunization records, to make sure that you are immune to measles. We recommend that you keep these records readily available.
- If your immunization records are not on file at your health care provider’s office or at the Student Health Center, please discuss a blood test for immunity with your doctor or start the measles vaccine series (2 shots at least 4 weeks apart).

Please note, a person is considered immune if they:

- Received two doses of measles-containing vaccine (typically MMR) on or after their first birthday OR:
- Have a blood test showing immunity to measles OR;
- Were born in the United States prior to January 1, 1957.
  - There is no age exemption for immunity in persons born outside the United States. This means those born outside of the United States need two doses of MMR regardless of their age.

Please contact Student Health Center if you have any questions.