

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
and Immunization Section**

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Dear Parents & Staff:

Public Health – Seattle & King County (Public Health) has been informed of a student with mumps-like illness who attends school in the Tukwila School District. The student has recovered and is no longer contagious. This case is linked to an ongoing outbreak in South King County.

What is mumps?

Mumps is an illness caused by a virus that can cause fever, headache, and swelling of the cheeks and jaw. In rare cases, mumps can lead to more serious complications that may require hospitalization. Up to 30% of people with mumps infection will have no symptoms.

How is mumps spread?

A person with mumps can spread the virus by coughing, sneezing, or talking. It can also be spread by sharing cups or eating utensils, and by touching objects or surfaces with unwashed hands that are then touched by others.

Who is at risk of getting mumps*?

- Infants who are too young to receive mumps vaccine (less than 1 year of age).
- Children over 1 year of age who have not received at least 1 dose of MMR
- Adults born in or after 1957 who have not been vaccinated or have not previously had mumps disease.
- If you are unsure of your child's vaccination status please contact your health care provider.

** Note: Persons born before 1957 probably had mumps as children and are usually considered immune.*

What should I do now?

Watch your child for symptoms of mumps.

If your child develops any of the symptoms listed above:

- Call your child's healthcare provider and tell them about your child's symptoms and that he or she may have been exposed to mumps. Bring or read this letter to the health care provider.
- Keep your child home and away from other persons and from public settings until he or she has been evaluated by a healthcare provider.
- If you have additional questions please contact your health care provider.

Will children who do not have two doses of mumps vaccine be excluded from school?

At this time Public Health is not recommending exclusion of children with vaccine exemptions. This may change if there are additional cases in the schools. If your child does not have 2 doses of MMR vaccine please contact your healthcare provider to discuss vaccination.

Additional information about mumps can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/mumps.aspx>

Sincerely,

Krista Rietberg, MPH
Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Immunization Section