



**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

December 4, 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), continues to investigate a large mumps outbreak in NYC. The majority of cases are school-age children. In order to control mumps in your school and community we request your assistance. Please ensure that the following recommendations are carried out:

- Review immunization records of your students and make sure that all children are in compliance with state immunization requirements [preferably with 2 mumps containing vaccines given as measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)]. Although fully vaccinated individuals may sometimes develop mumps, students who have not received 2 mumps vaccinations are at greatest risk of becoming ill and spreading infection.
- If you are made aware of any new cases of mumps among your students, please contact the Bureau of Immunization (212-676-2288 or -2284) so that we can assure that the cases are being investigated and control measures are being implemented.
- Exclude students with mumps from school and dormitories for 5 days after their symptoms began, at which point they are no longer contagious.
- Students in the school or dormitory and who are either not in compliance with state immunization requirements or those with a medical or religious exemption to vaccination, should be excluded from school for 25 days after the most recent child with mumps attended while contagious.

A copy of frequently asked mumps questions is attached to help address questions that you, your staff or your students may have. They are also available at the BOI home page at: www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/imm/immum.shtml.

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>.

Your help ensuring that students are vaccinated and that proper outbreak control measures are taken is critical in preventing the spread of mumps.

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

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc

