

MEMORANDUM

To: City/County Directors of Environmental Health
District Directors

From: Brian M. Miner, Director *BMM*
Bureau Community Environmental Health and Food Protection

Date: April 18, 2019

Subject: Children's Camp Program: Vaccine-Preventable Disease and Measles Letter

For your use and distribution to children's camp operators, attached is a letter and an informational flyer which were prepared by the New York State Department of Health. The letter addresses vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccination recommendations for the camp setting and specific information on measles.

The letter is an updated letter addressing vaccine-preventable diseases for the 2019 season. It describes vaccine recommendations for campers and staff and reporting requirements for vaccine-preventable diseases. Additional information was included this year to raise awareness about the ongoing measles outbreak in New York State, particularly in high-risk communities. Since October 2018, a measles outbreak has affected over 500 individuals in multiple areas including New York City, Rockland, Westchester, Sullivan and Orange Counties. Measles was introduced by international travelers and rapidly spread in communities with high numbers of unvaccinated individuals. Reports of measles cases continue to grow and may spread throughout communities this summer affecting campers and staff. An informational flyer is also included in this package to be shared with camp operators. Both materials should be shared with all camp operators across the state.

Camps should be encouraged to share the informational flyer with parents prior to the start of the camp season to help prevent the spread of measles at summer camps. While these documents are intended for high-risk communities with large unvaccinated populations, they are also being provided to all counties across the state to share with any camp operators and families who are seeking additional resources to address the growing national and international concerns regarding measles outbreaks.

Measles is a highly communicable disease that can be spread rapidly, especially in a camp setting. Under New York State Public Health Law, Section 2100, local health departments have the authority to implement additional camper exclusions based upon measles outbreaks within their jurisdiction as necessary for the protection of the public health. Any local health department implementing additional exclusions should inform camp operators of these exclusions and we invite you to use the measles letter to support your communication.

In addition, all camp operators should continue to implement outbreak prevention procedures which include screening campers and staff for illness upon arrival at camp, isolating or separating campers and staff who are ill, encouraging handwashing, and implementing effective cleaning/disinfecting practices.

The letters and informational flyer will also be posted on the Department's website. If you have any questions about immunizations, please contact the Immunization Program at 518-473-4437. For questions concerning children's camps in general, please contact your regional Field Coordinator.

cc: G. Ginsberg
M. Cambridge
R. Sokol/D. Lang
C. Jones Rafferty
T. Shay
J. Maurer
A. Bonamici
J. Strepelis
R. Swider
C. Westerman
Regional Field Coordinators
LHD2