

GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive

Date: April 11, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Catherine Cioffi
Communications Director**

Office - (914) 995-2932

Cell- (914) 954 -5579

CCioffi@westchestergov.com

Caren Halbfinger

Office - (914) 813-5013

Cell- (914) 224-7651

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE MEASLES VACCINES

Health Commissioner Urges Residents to be Fully Vaccinated

(White Plains, NY) – Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, urged residents to check their own vaccination status and protect themselves and their unvaccinated children from measles by getting the MMR vaccine from their provider or a special county clinic.

Amler said: “Call your healthcare provider as soon as possible. MMR vaccine is covered by most insurers, and the health department will offer free MMR vaccines at special clinics Friday, Saturday and Tuesday. The MMR vaccine is very safe and effective.”

To reserve a spot at one of these health department MMR clinics, go to <http://www.health.ny.gov/gotoclinic/60>.

- Friday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 134 Court Street, White Plains
- Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 134 Court Street, White Plains
- Tuesday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 25 Moore Ave., Mount Kisco

Amler advised parents to consult with their healthcare provider about moving up plans to give their young children the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

The County Health Department arranged these special clinics, after publicly urging timely MMR vaccination, after eight unvaccinated children in northern Westchester were diagnosed with measles. The children do not attend public schools or daycare programs.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that causes fever, rash, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. Tiny white spots may appear in the mouth and a rash may appear on the body two to four days after symptoms begin. Complications can include hearing loss, pneumonia, swelling of the brain and death.

Measles is so contagious that when exposed, nine of 10 people who are not immune will also become sick from the virus. Without knowing they are sick, an infected person can spread measles to others up to four days before the rash appears, and for up to four days afterwards.

Dr. Amler cautioned anyone who thinks they have measles to call their doctor and report their symptoms. They should not go to a health care facility unannounced to avoid spreading measles to others.

For more information, call the NYS Measles Hotline at 1-888-364-4837.

###

About Westchester County

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

Follow Westchester County

Facebook: WCHealthDept

Twitter: @WCHealthDept



[Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Youtube](#) - [Instagram](#)

###