

**GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**WESTCHESTER HEALTH COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO MEASLES BAN IN ROCKLAND**  
*Guidance from Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health*

(White Plains, NY) – Westchester County Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, says children who have received the MMR vaccine are free to visit Rockland County. Westchester County parents and school officials have had questions about how to handle planned school excursions to Rockland County following the issuance of an executive order on March 26 by Rockland County Executive Ed Day, that bans unvaccinated children under age 18 from indoor public spaces.

**Amler says parents of unvaccinated children should make it a priority for their child to receive the MMR vaccine, which covers measles, mumps and rubella. Children who are uninsured or underinsured, and college students, can get the vaccine at Westchester County’s Health Clinics in White Plains and Yonkers. Call 914-995-5800 for an appointment.**

Amler said: “As a pediatrician and the Westchester County Commissioner of Health, I strongly urge all parents who have resisted vaccinating their children against measles to reconsider vaccination. Measles is highly contagious, and nine out of 10 people who are not immune and are exposed to measles will become infected. People can spread measles before they even know they are sick. People without immunity can catch measles just by being in a room for up to two hours after a person with measles has left. Measles can be a serious infection which can result in pneumonia, swelling of the brain, hearing loss and death.”

Measles is highly contagious, and people who are not fully vaccinated with two doses of the measles vaccine are at the highest risk of infection. People are at risk for getting sick up to 21 days after being exposed. Measles is a viral disease that causes high fever, cold-like symptoms and a rash all over the body. Measles is spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing. Measles infection can be serious and more severe in young infants, pregnant women and people with a weak immune system. Anyone who believes they may have been exposed should contact their healthcare provider.

To learn more about measles and its prevention, visit the Health Department's website at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health), like us on Facebook at facebook.com/wchealthdept or follow us on Twitter @wchealthdept.

### **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](http://www.westchestergov.com)

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