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| To: | Missouri Public Health Department |
| From: | Melissa Bernskoetter |
| cc: | Lise Saffran |
| Date: | 1/27/2023 |
| Re: | Measles Vaccination Recommendations |

Since the Measles’ reemergence in the United States, there have been questions on what the Department of Public Health can do to get parents involved and proactive with their child’s or children’s vaccinations. According to the CDC, it is recommended that children “…get two doses of the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age” (Centers for Disease Control, 2021). Despite this recommendation, the Missouri ShowMeVax reporting system still gets positive measles cases per year. Missouri, being the “Show Me” state, should be setting a precedent regarding measles vaccinations for the sake of continued “herd immunity”, or the protection of the medically compromised individuals through vaccination of the healthy. Missouri should consider the following recommendations for action:

* Children entering public school should only be excused from vaccination for medical reasons listed on the CDC website (immunocompromised, life-threatening allergies, or pregnant for example (Centers for Disease Control, 2021)). If the parent chooses not to vaccinate their child, they will be given the option of religious schooling or home school.
* Full FDA information should be given to all parents when a child is or children are born about all vaccines, along with CDC fact sheets.
* Media coverage should be geared toward positive vaccine reinforcement.

The hope is to have zero cases reported by 2025, which is an obtainable goal. When individuals work together for the herd, the community thrives and public health outcomes can change.

# References

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