



MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments, Hospital Emergency Departments, Infection Control Professionals and Infectious Disease Physicians

FROM: Communicable Disease Control Section

DATE: May 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Mumps Surveillance in Illinois as Colleges and Universities Dismiss for Summer

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been assisting McDonough County Health Department with the investigation of a mumps outbreak at Western Illinois University (WIU). Many other states have also experienced mumps cases and outbreaks. As colleges and universities will be dismissing for summer break, this statewide notification is being sent to remind health care providers and local health departments to be vigilant in looking for signs and symptoms of mumps, especially in those attending college or recently returning home from college, and in particular, WIU.

Mumps, an acute vaccine-preventable viral illness transmitted by respiratory droplets and saliva, has an incubation period of 16-18 days (12-25 days min/max respectively). Up to half of people who get mumps have very mild or no symptoms; and therefore, do not know they were infected with mumps. The most common symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, loss of appetite, and swollen and tender salivary glands under the ears on one or both sides (parotitis). Orchitis, oophoritis, meningitis, encephalitis, hearing loss, mastitis, and pancreatitis can also occur but are rare.

For ill persons not linked to the WIU outbreak, laboratory confirmation of suspect cases is important. Buccal swabs should be collected from suspect cases and sent to a commercial laboratory that conducts Mumps PCR testing, or you may contact your [local health department](#) to seek approval for testing at the IDPH laboratory. The optimal time for buccal swab specimen collection is preferably within three days of onset in those previously vaccinated or within eight days after symptom onset in unvaccinated individuals.

Children should receive the first dose of mumps-containing vaccine, MMR, at 12-15 months and the second dose at 4-6 years. All adults born during or after 1957 should have documentation of one dose of MMR. Adults at higher risk, such as university students, health care personnel, international travelers, and persons with potential mumps outbreak exposure, should have documentation of two doses of mumps vaccine or other proof of immunity to mumps. While the vaccine is not 100% effective, it still reduces the attack rate and severity of illness.

In January 2018, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended a third dose of vaccine in persons at increased risk for mumps as identified by public health during an outbreak. At this time, limited data and guidance exist to define high risk populations. As the WIU investigation progresses and if target populations at increased risk due to prolonged, close contact are identified, a third dose of vaccination may be recommended. Concerned individuals may also consult with their medical provider.

Mumps is reportable within 24 hours in Illinois. Health care providers should report cases of mumps to their local health department. Prevention and control measures are needed for cases and contacts, so prompt notification is critical. Patients diagnosed with mumps should stay home for at least five days after onset of parotitis. If you have any questions about reporting mumps cases, contact your [local health department](#). For more information about nationwide mumps outbreaks please visit [CDC's website](#).