



# DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

Alcona County

311 Lake St. P.O. Box 218

Harrisville, MI 48740

Tel: 989-724-6757

Iosco County

420 W. Lake Street

Tawas City, MI 48764

Tel: 989-362-6183

Ogemaw County

630 Progress St.

West Branch, MI 48661

Tel: 989-345-5020

Oscoda County

393 S. Mt. Tom Road

Mio, MI 48647

Tel: 989-826-3970

## INFORMATION RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: 4.22.2024

Contact: Scott Izzo

Phone: 989-343-1808

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### **District Health Department No. 2 Recommends the MMR Vaccine for Protection Against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)**

[Vaccinating children on time](#) according to the recommended childhood immunization schedule is the best protection against diseases like measles, hepatitis A, pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza. With the growing number of measles cases nationwide and around the globe now is a perfect time to make sure you and your family are protected. The measles vaccine is highly effective and very safe. For children, the first dose of the measles vaccine (MMR) is routinely given at about 12 months of age, and the second starting at 4 years of age.

Across the United States and in Michigan, routine immunization coverage has dropped. Statewide, vaccine coverage for the MMR (two doses) vaccine for children ages 4 to 6 years old has decreased from 89% in 2017 to 84% in 2022. In the DHD2 jurisdiction (covering Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw, and Oscoda counties), only 71% of children aged 19 to 36 months and only 62% of children aged 4 to 6 years are up to date on their MMR vaccines in 2024. These rates are especially troubling within Oscoda County (59% and 44% for each age range respectively).

Anyone not fully vaccinated against measles is encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Outbreaks of measles are on the rise in 2024, with currently over 60 cases reported in the United States since the beginning of the year across 16 states include Michigan. Those who have traveled recently, especially to states or jurisdictions with ongoing measles outbreaks, are encouraged to monitor for possible symptoms for 21 days after returning from travel. For more information on ongoing measles outbreaks, you can visit the CDC website: [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | CDC](#)

Vaccinations against measles are available from health care providers, pharmacies, and locally at our DHD2 offices. Cost effective and free options are available through DHD2. Please reach out to us at 1-800-504-2650 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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