



CH-6371 Stans, Engelbergstrasse 34, Postfach 1243 KAZ

To the parents of elementary school children

Dr. med. Dr. med. Peter Gürber, MPH
Kantonsarzt
Telefon 041 618 76 05
kantonsarzt@nw.ch

Measles prevention at school: information for parents

Dear parents,

Elimination of measles

Together with the other European member states of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Switzerland has resolved to eliminate measles in Europe. In order to achieve this, at least 95 per cent of children must be vaccinated with two doses. If a case of measles occurs, measures also need to be taken to stop the illness from spreading.

What happens if a case of measles occurs at school?

In order to prevent the measles from being able to spread and to protect those who are not vaccinated,

- *children who have caught the disease are sent home;*
- *children who are not vaccinated and who have come into contact somebody who has caught the disease are excluded from school for a period of three weeks, unless it is possible to vaccinate them within three days (72 hours) of the contact occurring or if they have had measles previously.*

For this reason, we recommend that you inform us whether your child is vaccinated against measles or has had the disease previously. If a case of measles occurs at school, we do not need to contact those children for whom we have received a vaccination certificate.

Measles

Measles is a highly infectious disease. Measles viruses are transmitted by droplets which become airborne when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The first symptoms appear one to three weeks after infection: fever, runny nose, cough, inflamed eyes including sensitivity to light. In the second phase, the red spots appear that are typical of measles. This rash spreads from the face across the entire body and there is a sharp rise in fever. Once the illness has healed, the immune system remains weakened for several weeks. Measles can sometimes lead to severe complications, including permanent disabilities and in rare cases even death.

The disease is infectious before the rash develops. For this reason, non-immune children who have come into contact with measles sufferers and have not yet fallen ill themselves must be excluded from school as quickly as possible, i.e. before they become infectious.

Kind regards,
KANTONSARZT



Dr. med. Peter Gürber, MPH
Kantonsarzt

- Rückantwortalon



Please fill out this form and hand it in to the class teacher.

We hereby confirm that we have received information from the school regarding measles prevention.

Name of child:

Address:

Telephone:

- Our child has received two doses of measles vaccination (copy of vaccination certificate).
- Our child has already had measles.
- Our child can / may not be vaccinated for medical reasons.
- Our child has not been vaccinated and we do not want the vaccination to be carried out. We confirm that we have received information from the school regarding the consequences in the event of measles occurring at school.

The details provided are confidential. They will be kept in a safe place (the child's dossier) and only made available to the health authorities if necessary, in particular if there is an outbreak of measles.

Place and date

Signature
