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TO: U.S. Resident and Day Summer Camps

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SUBJECT: Recommendations to Protect Campers and Staff from Mumps

Many of you may already be aware of the recent multi-state outbreak of mumps in the United States. The outbreak, which began in December 2005, started on a college campus in Iowa. It now involves 14 states with over 4,000 mumps cases reported since January 2006.

The predominant age group affected by this outbreak has been 18- to 24- year olds; a high proportion of cases in this age group are college students. This outbreak has resulted in some severe complications, including meningitis, encephalitis and orchitis.

The summer season represents a time when children and young adults may travel more between states to engage in summer-related activities, including attending or working at a camp. The following list identifies strategies and recommendations that camps and conferences may take to reduce the chances of mumps transmission and outbreaks:

1. Recommend that all campers and staff who have not yet arrived, bring documentation indicating receipt of two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine or have other evidence of immunity (i.e., documentation of physician-diagnosed mumps, laboratory evidence of immunity, or birth before 1957).
2. Going forward, collect MMR vaccine documentation including dates of vaccination in the form of a vaccination record (shot card), pre-entrance health form, or other electronic immunization record, from all campers and staff.
3. For campers and staff who are already attending camp, consider coordinating vaccination services through an on-site health clinic or local area healthcare provider affiliated with your camp. Where feasible, the local health department may also be able to assist in these efforts.
4. Identify a procedure for isolating individuals who are ill to reduce further spread of disease. Persons with mumps disease should be either sent home or isolated for nine days.
5. Review state-specific disease reporting requirements and outbreak control guidelines. If you have a suspected case of mumps in your camp, immediately notify your local health department.



We realize that these measures may have resource implications for summer camps. However, we believe they provide the best protection for campers and staff against disease, as well as avoid the inevitable disruption of camp as a result of illness and isolation procedures. MMR is a very safe vaccine, even if an individual has already had two doses of vaccine (<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/6mishome.htm>).

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices also recommends that adolescents be up-to-date with a variety of other vaccinations and/or booster doses to ensure high levels of immunity and to prevent outbreaks. Additional information on these recommendations is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/nip. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please visit the CDC website, your association's website, or your state or local health department's website.

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