

Mumps:

What Parents Should Know for
Students Attending Kindergarten
through 12th Grade in Ohio.



Don't let mumps interrupt the school year.

Mumps can spread easily from person to person.

It spreads through saliva or mucus droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or touches objects.

What are the symptoms?

At first, symptoms may be like the flu:

- Fever.
- Headache.
- Muscle aches.
- Tiredness.
- Loss of appetite.

Within the next few days, common signs are puffy cheeks and a swollen jaw.

Disease symptoms are generally milder in vaccinated people.

Unvaccinated persons are more likely to have serious complications of mumps such as:

- Swelling of the pancreas (pancreatitis).
- Reproductive organs can become swollen and painful.
- Swelling of the brain (encephalitis).
- Swelling of the tissue around the brain and spinal cord (meningitis).
- Hearing loss.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mumps outbreaks still happen. Outbreaks are more common in places where people have repeated close contact like schools, college campuses, and large gatherings. Vaccination protects your child and the community!

Keeping up to date on the mumps vaccine is the best way to protect your child against the mumps. It's usually given as a combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. This protects your child from measles, mumps, and rubella in one shot.

Children need two doses of MMR vaccine:

- First dose at 12 to 15 months.
- Second dose at 4 to 6 years.

It's not too late to get the vaccine!

If your child is starting school and hasn't had both shots, that's okay—there's still time. Talk to your doctor or health clinic to see what your child needs to stay healthy.

A strong start to the school year begins with protection!

Vaccines that protect against mumps are available at:

- Many doctor's offices.
- [Local Health Departments](#).
- Pharmacies (check with location based on your child's age).

K-12 school vaccine requirements in Ohio:

- [Ohio Revised Code 3313.671](#) requires students to be fully protected against 10 vaccine-preventable diseases, including mumps.
- During an outbreak, children without proof of mumps vaccination or previous mumps disease will be excluded from school until documentation is provided. Children with written waivers or exemptions will be excluded for at least 25 days after the onset of the last known case in the affected school ([Director's Journal](#)).



Your child may be able to get vaccines for free or at a low cost through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Check with your local health department to see if your child is eligible.

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