



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

January 22, 2020

Update

Dear faculty and staff on the U of A Fayetteville campus:

Questions about the requirements in this communication should be directed to the Arkansas Department of Health. Please do not reply to this message.

As you know, there is a mumps outbreak on the U of A Fayetteville campus. In an effort to shorten the outbreak, the Arkansas Department of Health has required that all persons working on the Fayetteville campus to provide documentation that they have received 2 doses of MMR vaccine in their lifetime by Friday, January 10, 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the steps that employees with only one documented dose of the MMR vaccine that was received after December 1, 2019 should take in order to meet this requirement.

- Once you have received your first dose of the MMR vaccine, you are eligible to receive your second dose 28 days after the first dose was given.
- If you have received your first dose and are in the 28-day waiting period, you may return to work until it is time for your second dose.
- If you received your first dose of MMR from December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, you will be considered In Compliance (“In Progress”) until after ADH’s planned immunization clinics on Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30. If you have not received your 2nd MMR by Friday, January 31, you will be considered Non-Compliant on that date.
- If you received your first dose of MMR from January 1, 2020 through January 28, 2020, you will not be eligible to receive your 2nd dose of MMR at the January 29 and 30 on-campus vaccine clinics (due to the 28-day waiting period). Therefore, you will be considered In Compliance (“In Progress”) until after ADH’s planned on-campus vaccination clinics scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 20. If you have not received your 2nd MMR by Friday, February 21, you will be considered Non-Compliant on that date.
- When you receive your second dose of the MMR vaccine, please upload your documentation to ADH using the following link: <https://adhredcap.arkansas.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=W8EH3Y4PTC>.
- You may choose to ask your physician to do a blood test for mumps called an IgG antibody test and submit the result to ADH for review by uploading it using the following link: <https://adhredcap.arkansas.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=W8EH3Y4PTC>. If the IgG test shows sufficient immunity to mumps from the first dose, a second dose of the MMR vaccine will not be required. If it does not show immunity, then a second dose of the MMR vaccine will be required.
- If you were born before 1957, you are considered to have immunity to mumps and this requirement does not apply to you.
- If you were born in 1957 or later and you have not had a dose of the MMR vaccine already, you need the first dose immediately.
- If you were born in 1957 or later and you received only one dose of the MMR vaccine prior to December 1, 2019, you are considered to be Non-compliant and need your second dose immediately.

The MMR vaccine is available at many pharmacies and doctors’ offices. It is also available at all Arkansas Department of Health local health units. To find the local health unit nearest you, use this link:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/health-units>. The local health unit in Washington County is open Monday - Friday (8 am through 4:30 pm, Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.). It is located at 3270 Wimberly Drive in Fayetteville. The phone number is 479-521-8181. Appointments are preferred, walk-ins as schedule allows. If you have insurance, please bring your insurance information with you. ADH will provide the vaccine at no cost to you, even if it is not covered by your health insurance.

ADH will be on campus January 29 and 30 at the Union Ballroom from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide the MMR vaccine to you if you are eligible for the second dose at that time. ADH will provide the vaccine at no cost to you. If you have insurance, please bring your insurance information with you. We will also be on campus February 19 and 20 (also in Union Ballroom from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for those not yet eligible to receive their 2nd dose during the clinics on January 29 and 30 due to the 28-day waiting period.

If there is a medical reason why you cannot receive a second dose of the MMR vaccine, you may ask your physician to do a blood test for mumps called an IgG antibody test and submit the result to ADH for review by uploading it using the following link: <https://adhredcap.arkansas.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=W8EH3Y4PTC>. If the IgG test shows sufficient immunity to mumps from the first dose, you will have met the ADH requirement. If it does not show immunity, then you may apply for a medical exemption from the requirement for a second dose of the MMR vaccine. Exemption applications are available at the Pat Walker Health Center or by calling ADH at 501-537-8969. The correct application is not available on-line.

Faculty and staff with exemptions and those who have not provided the required documentation will be excluded from work and campus-related activities, such as sports or other practice events, parties, social events or other gatherings, until the outbreak is declared over by the Arkansas Department of Health. An outbreak is over when two incubation periods for an illness have passed with no new cases. The incubation period for mumps is 26 days.

The best way to protect against mumps is to get the MMR vaccine, which protects against mumps, as well as measles and rubella. Unvaccinated people are nine times more likely to get mumps than are people with two doses of MMR vaccine. More information about the MMR vaccine can be found on the attached Vaccine Information Statement, which can also be read at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mmr.pdf>. Please read it carefully before being vaccinated. Information about mumps can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html>, and the latest information about the mumps outbreak on the UA Fayetteville campus can be found at <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/>.

Please be aware that two doses of the MMR vaccine is approximately 88 percent effective in completely preventing mumps. This means that about 12 out of every 100 people with two doses of the MMR vaccine will still get ill, if they are exposed to the mumps virus. However, mumps illness among those who have received the vaccine is expected to be milder and with fewer complications. To end this outbreak as quickly as possible, it is very important for everyone on campus to be as immune as possible against the disease.

ADH continues to work closely with University of Arkansas officials to stop the spread of this outbreak. If the outbreak continues to spread, additional steps may be needed. We will help your campus health officials keep you informed. Please contact the Arkansas Department of Health Outbreak Response Section at 501-537-8969 for more information.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Dillaha, M.D.

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Medical Director for Immunizations and Outbreak Response