



Riverside County  
Public Health



January 28, 2015

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Contacts:**

Mary E B Perry  
Public Information Officer  
Desert Sands Unified School District  
760.771.8502  
Cell 760.333.6262  
[Mary.Perry@desertsands.us](mailto:Mary.Perry@desertsands.us)

Barbara Cole, R.N., PHN, MSN Director, Disease Control  
Riverside County Department of Public Health  
Office: 951-358-5107  
Cell: 951-906-9001

## **Students without proof of measles vaccination will be kept out of desert high school temporarily**

Approximately 70 Palm Desert High School students who have not been vaccinated against measles or cannot show proof of proper protection against the illness will be excluded from school, Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser said Wednesday.

The decision comes after it was determined earlier this week that a student likely had measles. The student no longer is infectious and has been cleared to return to school, Kaiser said, but exposed unvaccinated or non-immune students still could be incubating the disease.

"We're trying to prevent a second wave of cases," Kaiser said. The affected students will be excluded from school for about 10 days.

At the request of the Riverside County Department of Public Health, officials at Palm Desert High School reviewed records to find students who had not received a measles vaccination or had no evidence of immunity. That information has been forwarded to the health department to identify students who must be excluded. School and public health officials will be contacting their parents today.

Representatives of Desert Sands Unified School District concurred with the Department of Public Health's action, noting that the well-being of students and staff remained the top priority, and that every precaution to ensure their safety should be taken.

"My decision to exclude students from school is not made lightly," said Kaiser. "It protects the health of those students who are being excluded and the community."