From Elaine Elliott, OES Nurse

**Important Information About OES’s Communicable Diseases Policy**

News of a single measles case in Oregon (and the recent outbreak of measles in 17 states) has refocused our attention on communicable disease. I would like to share the school protocols we follow in partnership with public health officials to keep students healthy.

As most of you know, OES is required to follow state laws regarding immunizations and school attendance. Current Oregon law authorizes public health officials to exclude persons from attendance at school if they have reportable diseases, and to exclude persons from attendance at school if they are not immunized and are susceptible to a reportable communicable disease such as measles or chicken pox.

If there is a confirmed case of a reportable communicable disease at OES, the ill student will be sent home and told to remain out of school until further notice. The school will immediately notify and consult with local public health officials. Once confirmed, the public health officials will determine the length of time a student must remain out of school.

The public health officials will also advise OES on what other children, if any, must also be kept home from school and for how long. Based on this determination, OES may need to send home students who are not ill but have been exposed and are susceptible to the reportable communicable disease due to their non-immunized status.

Most OES families have chosen to be immunized, and OES has not yet had a case of a reportable communicable disease during this school year. We remain hopeful that we will continue to have a healthy community and not have to send anyone home or exclude them from school. Thank you for your help in keeping our community well.

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact me (elliotte@oes.edu or 503.416.9300).