As you are aware the United States is experiencing a large, multi-state outbreak of measles. More than 150 people from 17 states in the US have been confirmed as having measles. As of February 23rd, there are no confirmed measles cases in Iowa.

It is always important to keep your vaccinations up-to-date, but during times like this, when we know a virus is circulating in many states, it’s especially critical to check with your health care provider to be sure you and your family’s vaccinations are current. The best way to prevent measles is to get the measles-mumps-rubella shot (MMR). Two doses of MMR will provide more than 99% of people lifelong protection against measles.

It is recommended that adults born in 1957 or later receive at least one dose of MMR vaccine or have a laboratory test proving that they are immune and protected. It is assumed that persons born in the US prior to 1957 were likely infected with the measles virus and therefore have presumptive immunity. In addition, two doses of MMR is recommended for adults of all ages who work or volunteer in healthcare facilities, travel internationally or are in college, if they do not have laboratory proof of immunity.

If there were to be a case of the measles on campus, the Iowa Department of Public Health would require that all unvaccinated students, staff, and or faculty be removed from campus for up to 30 days (two incubation periods). This is done for their own protection and to prevent the spread of measles. This could have academic and financial ramifications for those involved.

If you have any questions, please call Health Service at 387 1045