

FACT SHEET
MUMPS
 (Infectious Parotitis)

<i>What is Mumps?</i>	Mumps is a viral illness, which was commonly seen in children prior to the development of the mumps vaccine in 1967.
<i>How is it spread?</i>	Mumps is spread through the air by droplets when an infected person sneezes, or through direct contact with the saliva of an infected person.
<i>What is the incubation period?</i>	The time from exposure to the onset of symptoms is 12-25 days, commonly 18 days.
<i>What are the symptoms?</i>	Mumps is characterized by swelling and tenderness of one or more glands in the neck and in front of the ears, and a fever, headache, and muscle ache.
<i>What about contacts?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Susceptible contacts should be excluded from school, daycare or the workplace from the 12th through the 25th day after exposure. ▪ Unimmunized contacts born after 1957 should consult their physician, who may recommend getting immunized, although the vaccine may not prevent disease after an exposure has already occurred.
<i>How long is the person contagious?</i>	Maximum infectiousness occurs about 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. However, the virus has been found in saliva 6-7 days prior to symptoms until 9 days after symptoms began.
<i>When is it OK to return to school?</i>	Children should stay home until they are no longer ill at least nine days after symptoms began.
<i>Other Important Information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School-age children should have two doses of MMR vaccine. ▪ Parents who sign waivers should be informed that their child will be excluded from school if a case of mumps occurs.

This fact sheet is not intended to replace the advice of your physician. Parents should contact their healthcare provider if they have concerns regarding their child's health. If you have general questions, you may contact a Kalamazoo County nurse at 373-5264 or 373-5267.

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