

FACT SHEET

MUMPS

(Infectious Parotitis)

<i>What is Mumps?</i>	Mumps is an illness caused by a virus, and was commonly seen in children before the mumps vaccine came out 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, usually 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 aches.
<i>What about contacts?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At risk contacts should be excluded from school, daycare, or the workplace until 25 days after onset of parotitis in the last mumps case ▪ 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>	A person is most likely to pass the disease about 48 hours before symptoms start. However, the virus has been found in saliva 6-7 days before symptoms until 9 days after symptoms began.
<i>When is it OK to return to school/daycare?</i>	Children should stay home until they are no longer ill, at least 5 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.

