



Department of Health

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A Message from

Dr. Howard A. Zucker

New York State Commissioner of Health

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Passover is a time when we gather with families and friends in close contact. As someone who has worked very closely with this community since the measles outbreak began, I am concerned that if we are not careful, these gatherings could serve to promote the further spread of measles among our loved ones. To protect our families and friends, I am asking that anyone who is sick or has symptoms stay away from those who may not be vaccinated or are at high risk, including pregnant women, babies who are too young to be vaccinated, and those who have compromised immune systems.

In addition, I am asking you to be aware of the signs and symptoms of measles. Symptoms usually appear about 10 to 12 days after a person is around someone with measles. The first symptoms are usually high fever, cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes and then a rash appears 2 to 4 days after the fever begins. If a family member or friend develops any of these symptoms, it is critical that you call the local health department right away. Steps should be taken to immediately stay away from others to keep them from getting sick. If medical attention is needed, please call ahead to ask for instructions before you go to a health care facility so that you don't expose others. Our goal is for everyone to remain safe and healthy throughout Passover and after.

Thank you.