

# North Douglas Elementary/Middle School

**Do Your Best, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible**

PO Box 338 Drain, Or 97435 541-836-2213

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

With the recent Measles outbreak in Southern Washington and a single confirmed case in the Portland area it made me think back to a situation we had last year within our own district. Last year, we had a couple cases of "Whooping Cough" in our District. Because we had more than one case it was considered an epidemic and some rules came into play that I had never encountered prior to this situation. Many of our families have the right and have chosen to utilize the "Non-Medical Exemption" in regards to having their children (students) vaccinated. What we learned last year is that even though it is your right to not vaccinate, once an outbreak is declared your child will not be allowed to come to school for an undefined period of time depending on what the communicable disease it is. For "Whooping Cough," that period was 21 days because the incubation period was 20 days after exposure for that particular communicable disease.

With the statewide exclusion date approaching us on February 20<sup>th</sup> (ORS 433.267) I just want to communicate as well as I can about the potential of any vaccine preventable disease making its way to our county. I want to be clear that our Health Officials have very little concern that something such as Measles will make it here, however, if it does, students who have not been vaccinated will be excluded from school.

This letter pertains to a very small percentage of our student body population, but I wanted to share the information.

Have a great day.

Jody Cyr

Principal

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