

September 9, 2025

Siksika Board of Education c/o Chris Scout, Superintendent

RE: Measles Public Health Notice - Return to School

Dear School Administrators, staff, and parents of SBE student,

As students return to school this fall, we want to ensure awareness of the increased risk of measles exposure that comes with gatherings. Schools bring children together in close contact with one another, which can help measles spread quickly if someone is not protected.

Measles is a serious disease that starts like a cold or flu that is followed by a rash about 3-7 days after the start of the illness. More serious infections can lead to pneumonia or encephalitis (swelling of the brain). So far in Alberta, 1 out of every 12 people infected with measles has needed hospital care to manage symptoms.

The good news is that measles can be prevented with vaccination. Siksika Health Services strongly encourages all Siksika Nation members to make sure they are up-to-date on measles immunizations. Families can check their immunization status by reaching out to Siksika Community Health through the following ways:

E-mail (preferred): cdc@siksikahealth.com

- Supply the legal name(s) of the individuals to be checked (no birth dates or Alberta health numbers)
- A phone number you can be reached at

Phone: 403-734-5720

• This is a secure automated line, leave a message with the names of the individuals to be checked and a phone number you can be reached at

If you suspect that someone in your family may be sick with measles, please contact us **before** coming to any health building so we can provide instructions to keep everyone safe. Call the Siksika Health Clinic @ 403-734-5690 or myself directly @ 403-734-5616.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation; taking this simple step now can help protect families and keep or schools healthy places for learning.

Respectfully,

Chris Sterling Community Health Nurse, Siksika Health Services