

Worst Measles outbreak in over a decade

TUCSON- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's center for immunization is stressing the importance of getting vaccinated for measles.

Here in Arizona, the law requires kids to get certain vaccines in order to attend school, unless a doctor signs a medical exemption form for religious, or personal beliefs.

But there's been an increasing number of exemption forms being signed which could possibly put your child and others at risk, according to doctors.



According to the Arizona Department of Health, exemption rates have been going up since 2004, especially in private and charter schools here in the state.

We caught up with local pediatrician Dr. Duane Dyson to find out what these numbers mean for parents.

"Well they run the risk of actually picking up measles. You know as they say, if a person has measles, those people they come across aren't vaccinated they have a 90 percent chance of getting measles. So in that setting you should be aware of what your child's school policy on allowing kids in their program that aren't vaccinated."

According to the Journal of Pediatrics, parental refusal and delay of childhood vaccines is clustered in certain communities.

The study was done in California and found that the percentage of kids who were under-immunized increased from 8 percent in 2002-2005 to 13 percent in 2010.

They also found that kids from wealthier families were more likely to be under-immunized.