The outbreak of 2006 quickly became an outbreak of epidemic proportion, literally, when the people of Iowa were affected with a mumps infection that spread throughout the college community like wildfire. The MMR vaccine used to only be recommended as a single dose vaccine but in 1990, the administration of the vaccine was increased from one to two doses to increase its efficacy. Unfortunately the college students of 2006 were a part of the population that had not received the second dose and due to the transmission of the contagion, the college students were at increased risk. A plan was developed to control the outbreak and from that plan, the mass vaccination program came into being. Through the work of the mass vaccination program, the incident was able to be controlled. If it wasn’t for a large team of experts that worked with each other, the program may have been less of a success.

A Mumps Epidemic Discussion Questions:
- If the mumps were substituted with measles or rubella, how do you think the epidemic would have changed?
- The epidemic was caused by only one dose of the vaccine given. Do you think if there was more research done into the longevity of the vaccine the mumps outbreak wouldn’t have happened?
- How did the outbreak expand over Iowa/ over the US?
- Why do so many mumps cases occur in vaccinated people?
- Did mass vaccination work?
- Why did they change the recommendations for isolation?
- Why are college students at risk? What is it about their behavior?
- The outbreak reached epidemic levels, what is an epidemic and how was it defined in this case?
- Why did the word epidemic scare people and have political ramifications? Is the framing that important?
- Why is a command structure so important to have?
- Are you aware of your vaccines?