



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Department Urges Self-Reporting After Second Measles Case

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department is investigating exposures to an Allegheny County resident with a presumed diagnosis of measles. This is the second person diagnosed with measles in the county within the past month. It is not known if the cases are in any way related. The Health Department is urging individuals who may have been exposed to the case to report illness characterized by fever and rash.

Contacts in the person's workplace and healthcare settings are being notified and efforts are under way to find others. Additional exposures to the case may have occurred at the following places and times:

- Office Building (including health care providers), 2790 Mosside Boulevard in Monroeville, main lobby or elevator, May 16, 11:30 am-2:00 pm
- Berry Quool (yogurt store) Allegheny River Blvd in Oakmont, May 17, 5-7:30 pm
- Citizen's Bank Building, 525 William Penn Place, downtown Pittsburgh, main lobby and elevator, May 19, 9-11 am or 7:30-9:30 pm, or May 20, 9-11 am or 6-8 pm

While most people are not at risk because they have been immunized or have had measles, the following groups of individuals are susceptible to becoming infected with measles:

- Anyone born since 1957 who has not received two doses of effective measles vaccine known as MMR, which includes infants too young to have been immunized; persons who were vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine (used from 1963 through 1967) and have not been re-vaccinated; and those who refused vaccination.
- Persons whose immune systems are compromised due to disease or medication.

If you are susceptible to measles, visited the above locations at the indicated times, and become ill with symptoms of measles between now and June 10, the Health Department recommends contacting your primary care provider immediately. Tell him or her that you may have been exposed to measles. Do not go directly to the office, urgent care center or emergency room, as this may expose other persons. Pregnant women should contact their doctor about their immune status.

Health care providers who suspect measles should call the Health Department at **412-687-ACHD (2243)** for consultation and to arrange testing.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus. Symptoms begin 7 to 21 days after exposure and include a runny nose, red and watery eyes, cough and a high fever. After four days, a raised, red rash begins on the face and spreads downward to neck, trunk and extremities. The rash usually lasts four to seven days.

An individual with measles can spread the virus to others for four days before and four days after the rash begins. It is spread by infected droplets during sneezing or coughing, touching contaminated objects, and direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. Infected droplets and secretions can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours.

Complications from measles can include ear infection, diarrhea and pneumonia, encephalitis (an inflammation of the brain), and even death. Measles can also cause miscarriages or premature delivery in pregnant women.

The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is given to toddlers when they are 12 to 15 months of age, and a second MMR vaccine is required for all Pennsylvania school children. However, individuals who have received only one dose of the vaccine, instead of the recommended two doses, may still be susceptible to the virus. Adults born during or after 1957 who have not had two doses of vaccine or documented disease should be vaccinated with one dose of MMR vaccine. The MMR vaccine also can help prevent infection if it is given within three days of exposure.

The Health Department recommends that any person who is due for measles vaccination make arrangements to receive it from their medical provider. Persons without health insurance may receive the vaccine at the Health Department's immunization clinic at 3441 Forbes Avenue in Oakland. There is no risk in getting an additional dose of the MMR vaccine for individuals who may have already received it.

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