



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION: Feb. 15, 2008

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MEASLES OUTBREAK UPDATE

COUNTY CONFIRMS FIVE ADDITIONAL MEASLES CASES

Two New Suspect Cases Uncovered

The County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has confirmed that five more children have tested positive for measles, or have clinical symptoms of the disease and are linked to the original case. The new cases bring the total number of confirmed cases to eleven. Three suspect measles cases are pending confirmation.

Lab results for an 8-year old child, who is a classmate of the original measles case, came back positive for the disease. County health officials have confirmed that the child attended the January 31, 2008 4:00 p.m. performance of the Cirque du Soleil *Corteo* show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Spectators and employees at the 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. shows may have been exposed to the measles virus. The child also visited the Hillcrest locations of Whole Foods Market on January 29 at 5:00 p.m. for about an hour, and Trader Joe's on February 3 at 1:00 p.m. for about an hour.

"It is extremely important that people, particularly children, who were at the Cirque du Soleil performances or visited the stores on these dates and times are aware that they may have been exposed to measles. Individuals who have not been vaccinated against measles, or have not had the disease may be at-risk," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "I would also like to remind the public that the virus only lives for about two hours after it is released into the environment. There is no longer a risk of contracting measles at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, Trader Joe's, or Whole Foods Market because of this exposure."

Positive test results are also reported for an infant, 11 months of age, who is believed to have contracted measles at Children's Clinic La Jolla, where the first measles patient received care.

Of the five new cases, two (ages 6 and 8 years) are schoolmates of the original measles case and exhibit the classical symptoms of measles.

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It has also been confirmed that the remaining pending case, a 2 1/2-year-old child connected to the doctor's office, has the disease.

Today, health officials discovered two new suspect cases—an 18-month-old and a 10-year-old child—with no known link to the original measles outbreak.

The following is a list of confirmed and suspected cases:

Cooperative Charter School:

7 Confirmed (ages: 7, 9, 7, 8, 6 and 8; the 3-year-old sibling of the original case also has the measles, but does not attend the school.)

1 Pending (age: 6)

Children's Clinic La Jolla:

4 Confirmed (ages: 11 months, 10 months, 11 months, 2 1/2 years)

No pending cases

Unknown Location:

2 Pending (ages: 18 months and 10 years)

The best way to prevent measles is by getting the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. Children should receive the first dose at 12 months of age and a second dose between ages 4-6.

Measles causes a high fever, cough, runny nose and watery eyes, followed by a rash; symptoms usually last one to two weeks. The disease is contagious from four days before the rash appears to four days afterwards. For more information about measles and the MMR vaccine, call the HHSA Immunization Branch at (619) 692-8661 or visit www.sdiz.org.

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