



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
February 12, 2008

Contact: José A. Álvarez (619) 515-6635 (619) 964-1526

HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM INFANT HAS MEASLES ***Measles Update at 2:30 p.m. at HHSA, 1700 Pacific Highway***

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has confirmed that an 11-month old child is infected with measles. The infant is believed to have acquired the disease at the Children's Clinic in La Jolla, where the first measles patient received care on January 25.

The family of the 11-month old child traveled to Hawaii last week. The family sought medical attention when the child developed a rash. The child is now in isolation at a military base in Hawaii and will remain there until February 14, when there is no risk of spreading the disease.

The Hawaii Department of Health is in the process of notifying at-risk passengers on Hawaiian Airlines Flight #15, which departed Lindberg Field from Terminal 2, Gate 41 to Honolulu at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 9.

"It is extremely important that passengers, particularly children, in close proximity to this area of the airport around that time (8:30 AM to 12:30 PM) are aware that they may have been exposed to the disease," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "Children younger than 12 months of age and individuals not vaccinated are at greater risk because they have not received the measles vaccine. If parents think their child is exhibiting measles symptoms, they should call their doctor immediately and arrange a visit that will not involve contact with other patients," added Wooten.

This is the fifth confirmed case of measles related to last week's outbreak. Five additional suspect cases are pending, including the hospitalized 10-month old infant reported by the County yesterday, and an additional child, age 2. The five pending cases are believed to have contracted measles at the Children's Clinic in La Jolla on January 25. The children returned to the doctor's office during February 5 – 8 and may have exposed additional patients to measles.

Public Health officials are working with the Alcott Elementary School Infant & Toddler Development Program and School of the Madeleine, to notify parents that their children may have been exposed to measles by the 2 year-old student. The child is enrolled at Alcott and briefly visited The School of the Madeleine on February 6.

The County continues monitoring the health of children at a local daycare and swim school attended by the 10-month old case. A total of 16 children at the daycare were identified as at-risk because they have no prior vaccination or natural immunity. These parents have been instructed to keep their children at home until February 26 to avoid spreading the disease. Working with the swim school, the County has determined that about 58 children could have been exposed at that facility.

(more)



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This is the County's first outbreak of measles in children in 17 years. "The occurrence of measles at local businesses is not a reflection of the care or level of service provided at these facilities. Instead, this outbreak is an illustration of the highly infectious nature of this disease," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. The best way to prevent measles is by getting the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. Dr. Wooten urges parents to ensure that their children receive the shot; 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 for one to two weeks. The disease is contagious from four days before the rash appears to four days afterwards. The rash begins on the face and head then proceeds downward and outward to the hands and feet. It fades in the same order it began, from head to feet.

For more information about measles and the shots that protect against them, please call the HHSA Immunization Branch at (619) 692-8661 or visit the website at www.sdiz.org.

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