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## MEASLES OUTBREAK UPDATE

### COUNTY CONFIRMS TWO ADDITIONAL MEASLES CASES

*Press Conference 1:00 p.m. Today at 1700 Pacific Highway*

The County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has confirmed that two more children have tested positive for measles, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to eight. HHSA is awaiting lab results to confirm two additional suspected cases.

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.

The following is a list of confirmed and pending cases:

**Cooperative Charter School:**

5 Confirmed (ages: 7, 9, 7 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:**

3 Confirmed (ages: 11 months, 10 months, and 11 months)

1 Pending (ages: 2)

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](http://www.sdiz.org).

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