



News for Immediate Release

Feb. 6, 2015

Department of Health Advisory: Possible Measles Case and Potential Exposure in Lancaster County, Free Clinic Offered on Feb. 7

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania Department of Health is advising the public of a potential exposure to a possible case of measles, a vaccine-preventable disease.

A person who likely has measles may have exposed other people to the disease on the following dates at these Lancaster County, Pennsylvania locations and times:

- **College Avenue Associates:** 233 College Avenue, Lancaster, Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **This includes all practices at the medical building:**
 - Keystone Cancer Center
 - Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons
 - Red Rose Cardiology and Interventional Spine Associates
 - General Surgery Oncology Specialists of Central Pennsylvania
 - Lancaster Pulmonary and Sleep Associates and Infectious Disease Specialists
 - Red Rose Pediatrics
 - Lancaster Hematology/Oncology
- **Sheetz:** 1790 Millersville Road, Lancaster, Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Millersville University, Pucillo Gymnasium,** 1 South George Street, Millersville, Saturday, Jan. 31 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"If you have been properly immunized, you don't have to worry if you were at the Lancaster County locations identified," said Acting Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine. "The department encourages anyone who is unsure about their measles vaccination status to contact their family physician or pediatrician or call the department at 1-877-PA-HEALTH."

The following groups of individuals are at risk of becoming infected if they have had contact with an infected individual, according to Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) guidelines:

- Infants less than one year of age who are too young to have received the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine;
- Individuals who refused vaccination; and
- Individuals from parts of the world where there is low vaccination coverage or circulating measles.

Additionally, even if you were vaccinated, you may still be at risk if:

- You were vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine, which was used from 1963 through 1967, and have not been revaccinated; and
- You were born after 1957 who have only received one dose of MMR vaccine.

The vaccine for measles is safe and highly effective. Most people in the United States are immune to measles, either because they received the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine in childhood, or because they were exposed to measles in the pre-vaccine era.

Symptoms will begin one to two weeks after exposure and include a runny nose, watery eyes, cough and a high fever. After four days, a raised, red rash starts to spread on the face, down the body and out to the arms and legs. 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 sneezing or coughing, touching contaminated objects, and direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. Infected droplets and secretions can remain contagious on surfaces for up to two hours.

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

The MMR vaccine can help prevent infection if it is given within three days of exposure. For those potentially exposed at the College Avenue Associates locations and have not previously been immunized with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, getting immunized by Feb. 7, which is within the three-day window, may help prevent infection. If it has been more than three days since your exposure, a dose of immune globulin can provide protection up to six days after exposure. There is no risk in getting an additional dose of the MMR vaccine for individuals who may have already received it.

The MMR vaccine is given to toddlers when they are 12 to 15 months of age, and a second dose 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 at risk of infection with this virus. If you have not received a second dose, the department encourages you to see your health care provider.

The Department of Health is also offering a free clinic to both insured and uninsured individuals at the following location and date. Walk-ins are welcome and encouraged.

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015
Lancaster State Health Center
1661 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“With the number of cases of measles increasing every day across the United States, it’s critical that we continue to fight the spread of this highly contagious disease in Pennsylvania through encouraged vaccination,” said Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Karen Murphy. “The department strongly recommends anyone who has not been immunized, to receive a vaccination as soon as possible.”

If you are a healthcare provider who suspects measles, please call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for consultation and to arrange testing.

For more information about measles, see the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s website at <http://www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/epi/MeaslesFactSheet.pdf>. Additional information from the CDC is also available at www.cdc.gov

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