



News Release

For Immediate Release

Saturday, January 26, 2019

MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONFIRMS NEW MEASLES CASES

New measles cases occurred in unvaccinated individuals

The Monroe County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has confirmed that 2 Canal View Elementary School students have laboratory-confirmed cases of measles. Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus that is spread by direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people.

MCDPH is working to determine whether these individuals may have exposed other Monroe County residents.

A person is considered immune and is unlikely to get measles if they were born before January 1, 1957, or have received two doses of the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine or have a lab test confirming immunity.

Those individuals lacking immunity or not sure if they have been vaccinated are at risk of developing measles. Symptoms include a fever, rash, cough, conjunctivitis (red eyes) and/or runny nose. Symptoms usually appear in 10-12 days after exposure but may take as long as 21 days.

The following guidance has been sent to parents of Canal View Elementary School students:

- Confirm that your child has received 2 doses of the MMR vaccine.
- If your child has only received one dose of the MMR Vaccine, take them to get a second dose from their primary care provider as soon as possible.
- Monitor for signs and symptoms of measles (described below) until February 13th
- **If your child becomes ill, they should not go to school and you should seek appropriate medical care:**
 - Notify the Monroe County Department of Public Health at (585) 753-5164
 - Notify the school of your child's illness
 - Call their primary care provider or emergency department **before seeking care** to avoid exposing others to illness.

Symptoms of measles generally appear in two stages.

In the first stage, which lasts two to four days, the individual may have a runny nose, cough and a slight fever. Eyes may become reddened and sensitive to light while the fever gradually rises each day, often peaking as high as 103° to 105° F. Small bluish white spots surrounded by a reddish area may also appear on the inside of the mouth.

The second stage begins on the third to seventh day and consists of a red blotchy rash lasting five to six days. The rash usually begins on the face and then spreads downward and outward, reaching the hands and feet. The rash fades in the same order that it appeared, from head to extremities. A person can spread measles from 4

days before the onset of rash through 4 days after the rash begins. Although measles is usually considered a childhood disease, it can be contracted at any age.

The single best way to prevent measles is to be vaccinated. Individuals are recommended to receive 2 doses of MMR vaccine to be protected.

For more information about measles, please visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2170/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>.

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Media Inquiries, Contact:

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