



Media Advisory

John R. Kasich / Governor
Lance D. Himes / Interim Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Measles Outbreak Confirmed

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Knox County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have confirmed an outbreak of measles in the Knox County area. At this time, we have confirmed 16 cases of the measles. The initial cases were from unvaccinated travelers who returned to Ohio from the Philippines.

ODH will begin posting case counts on our website by 3 p.m. each business day.

Holmes County General Health District will offer a free vaccination clinic for the public today from 10 a.m. to noon at the Holmesville Church of Christ, 204 W. Main Street, Holmesville, Ohio.

The Knox County Health Department will have a free clinic today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Luke's Community Center, 7 W. Rambo St., Danville, Ohio.

"When fully vaccinated, the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is 97 percent effective in preventing the measles," said ODH Interim Director Lance Himes.

Measles is an acute, highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus that is easily spread. Symptoms of the measles usually appear in 7-21 days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye and a rash. The disease is highly contagious and can be transmitted from four days prior to the onset of the rash to four days after the onset. Anyone who is not immunized and gets exposed to the disease has a high likelihood of getting ill.

ODH and its local public health partners support the vaccine recommendations set forth by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC. These recommendations include vaccination schedules for when individuals (children and adults) should receive their vaccinations.

For more information about measles, visit the ODH website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/>.

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