Central Michigan
District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Partners

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: Measles Outbreak

Release Date: Immediately (April 1, 2019)

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN SOUTHEAST CAN QUICKLY MOVE NORTH

Get Vaccinated to Protect Yourself

April 1, 2019 - Southeast Michigan is currently experiencing a measles outbreak with 22 cases confirmed within Oakland and Wayne counties. While no deaths or hospitalizations are associated with the outbreak, the Central Michigan District Health Department advises everyone to get vaccinated or be sure you are up to date on your vaccinations to stop the spread of measles.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact, and through the air. The virus can live for up to two hours in the air where the infected person was present. Symptoms of measles usually begin 7-14 days after exposure, but can appear up to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever (may spike to over 104˚F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums, and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) 2-3 days after symptoms begin
- A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms, and legs 3-5 days after symptoms begin

The measles vaccine is highly effective and very safe. A single dose of measles vaccine protects about 95 percent of children, but after two doses, almost 100 percent are immune. You cannot get measles from the vaccine. It is effective within 72 hours of exposure to prevent illness. In addition, immune globulin (Ig) treatment is effective within six days of exposure for high-risk individuals. Talk to your healthcare provider to determine if immune globulin is right for you and if it is available.

High-risk individuals include those who are unvaccinated or unsure about vaccination status, pregnant women and those who are immune-compromised (have a weakened immune system due to illness and diseases like HIV, malnutrition and/or medications).

Contact your local health department (phone numbers listed below) or medical provider for more information and to schedule an appointment for vaccinations.

Arenac County: 989-846-6541, option 2

Clare County: 989-539-6731, option 2

Gladwin County: 989-426-9431, option 2

Isabella County: 989-773-5921, option 2

Osceola County: 231-832-5532, option 2

Roscommon County: 989-366-9166, option 2

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.