



For Immediate Release
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Health Department Alerts Community to Potential Measles Exposure in Lake County

While there are no current cases of measles in Lake County, the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center is alerting the community to a location where people may have been exposed to the virus. People who visited or worked at the Menards store, 2700 W. Lake Cook Road in Long Grove, on Sunday, February 15, between 7:55 a.m. and 3:20 p.m., may have been exposed. An individual who has tested positive for measles was at the store at that date and time and could have been contagious. The Menards store is cooperating closely with the Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Most people in Illinois have been vaccinated for measles, but out of an abundance of caution, the Health Department has decided to offer the vaccine. Several free measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccination clinics will be offered for customers and employees of the store who feel they may have been exposed. The dates and times are to be determined.

Alternatively, customers and employees may visit their healthcare provider, or individuals 14 years of age or older may be vaccinated at their local pharmacy. Potentially exposed pregnant women should contact their obstetrician/gynecologist. If you have written proof of vaccination with measles or MMR vaccine, please bring this to the clinic. With some exceptions, persons born before 1957 are considered immune to measles and do not need vaccination.

There are currently 15 confirmed cases of measles in Illinois. All the current Illinois cases are in Cook County. Nationwide, more than 150 cases of measles have been confirmed in numerous states. The Health Department is reminding residents that the best way to protect against measles is to get the measles mumps rubella (MMR) vaccine.

"The measles vaccine is safe, effective and the best protection against this disease," said Tony Beltran, the Health Department's Executive Director. "Before the U.S. measles vaccination program started in 1963, about 3 to 4 million people in the U.S. got measles each year, 400 to 500 of them died and 48,000 were hospitalized."

A person who was potentially exposed and is experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes with or without a rash, should call their healthcare provider. These individuals should notify their physician or emergency department before seeking care by calling ahead, so that staff is able to take appropriate precautions to prevent others from being infected.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease. The disease can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis and death. Measles is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing or sneezing and can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. Infected people are contagious four days prior to their rash developing until four days

after.

Residents should be aware of the symptoms of measles, which include:

- * A fever that can get very high
- * Cough, runny nose and red eyes
- * A rash of tiny, red spots that starts at the head and spreads to the rest of the body

Since January, the Health Department has been providing information and updates on measles to local daycare facilities, schools and healthcare providers. For more information, visit the Health Department's website at: <http://health.lakecountyl.gov> or call: (847) 377-8130.

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