



"Inspiring Better Health for All"

Forest County Health Department
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<http://forestcountypublichealth.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DHS Confirms First Cases of Measles in Wisconsin This Year

No Known public exposure identified; overall risk to the public is low.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Oconto County Public Health have confirmed that nine people have been diagnosed with measles in Oconto County. One person diagnosed was confirmed through testing at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. The other eight people were confirmed based on exposure and symptoms. All the cases were exposed to a common source during out-of-state travel. No additional information will be released due to privacy laws. DHS, in coordination with the Oconto County Public Health, is working to identify and notify people who may have been exposed to the measles virus. At this time, no public points of exposure have been identified, and the risk to the community remains low.

Measles is highly contagious and can be spread from person to person through the air. The virus can stay in the air for two hours after a sick person coughs or sneezes. 90% of the people around a person with the measles virus could get the virus if not vaccinated.

Symptoms of measles appear about 10-12 days after being exposed, and include:

- *Runny Nose
- *High Fever (greater than 104)
- *Tiredness
- *Cough
- *Red, Watery eyes, or conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- *A red rash with raised bumps that starts at the hairline and moves to the arms and legs three to five days after symptoms start.

Measles can cause serious complications, including pneumonia, brain damage, and deafness. It can lead to death.

Anyone who develops symptoms **should stay home and call their healthcare provider's office or clinic before visiting so they can take precautions to make sure other patients are not exposed to the virus.**

Measles can be prevented with the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR). Two doses of the measles vaccine are 97% effective at preventing the disease. If you were born before 1957, you are generally considered immune and do not need a vaccine. All other adults without



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laboratory evidence of immunity should have at least one dose of measles-containing vaccine, and children should have two doses.

Anyone who is not vaccinated against measles can still get vaccinated. Contact your health care provider, local clinic, pharmacy, or the Forest County Health Department to see what vaccines are needed. Anyone who is pregnant, has children under the age of 12 months, or is otherwise not able to receive the MMR can contact their doctor or community clinic for guidance.

If you have any questions, please call The Forest County Health Department at 715-478-3371.
