



Media Contact

Stacy Shelp
Public Information Officer
Orange County Health Department
Phone: 919.245.2462

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING RESPONSE TO RECENT MEASLES OUTBREAK

ORANGE COUNTY, NC (July 16, 2013)– The Orange County Health Department was recently recognized by the NC Division of Public Health/Communicable Disease Branch for “Best Practice in an Outbreak Response Associated with the Spring 2013 Measles Outbreak.” The award recognized the Health Department’s “rapid, scalable, and coordinated response to a communicable disease threat in the community.”

“Measles is highly contagious. I am very proud of our communicable disease nurses and communications staff. Their efforts were paramount in keeping the recent measles outbreak contained,” said Dr. Colleen Bridger, Orange County Health Director.

During the outbreak, the Orange County Health Department staff managed eight measles cases and 36 contacts to measles. Twenty-five isolation and quarantine orders were issued requiring persons to remain in their homes with no outside visitors until risk of infecting others ended. Lengths of confinement varied from one day to 16 days. Approximately 260 hours of staff time were devoted to the outbreak. All cases were traced to exposures that occurred in Stokes County after a traveler to India returned with measles.

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