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New Cases of Measles Reported in Orange County

Orange County, NC (April 26, 2013) – Four additional cases of measles have been diagnosed in Orange County, bringing the county total to five cases. Of the four new cases, one is an adult and the other three are children. The children range in age from 9-11 years; three attend Emerson Waldorf School in Chapel Hill and one attends Grady Brown Elementary School in Hillsborough. It is believed that the children were not exposed to measles at school, but at a separate location.

All of the new cases are among the contacts with the initial case in the county. All new cases were already in quarantine and will remain isolated at home.

“We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of the individuals and families who are under the quarantine order. Clearly being under quarantine is a major inconvenience for those affected, but by keeping the people who are potentially contagious with measles away from others, we have been able to minimize the spread of this highly contagious disease” said Orange County Health Director, Dr. Colleen Bridger.

Orange County Health Department Offers Vaccination against Measles

The best protection against measles is the two part MMR vaccination. Most children receive their first dose of the vaccine beginning at 12 months of age. The Orange County Health Department is offering the MMR vaccine to any residents who have not received the vaccine in the past. To schedule an appointment, residents can call the Health Department at 919-245-2400 or call their family physician.

Outbreak History

On Monday, April 15, 2013, the Orange County Health Department was notified of a potential measles case. The Health Department was able to confirm this case and begin an investigation into potential contacts and exposures. The Orange County case was one of the seven initial cases in the state, with the other six being in Stokes County. As of Thursday, April 25th, the State total number of cases was up to 14.

Symptoms

Measles is an uncommon, but highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus.

Signs and symptoms of early onset are similar to a cold such as fever, runny nose, cough, and sore, red eyes. Within 3-4 days after onset of these symptoms, a rash will appear on the face or neck. About 1 out of 10 children with measles also gets an ear infection and up to 1 out of 20 gets pneumonia.

Individuals that have measles, or are not immunized and have been around someone with the measles need to stay at home away from others.

Visit the CDC's webpage for more information about the measles: www.cdc.gov/measles

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