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Second measles case confirmed in Denver metro area

DENVER – A second measles case in the Denver metro area has been confirmed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The second infected individual had contact with the adult male who tested positive for measles on June 4.

As reported Thursday, the first measles case, an adult male from India, was known to have visited a private physician’s office and later was hospitalized at Sky Ridge Medical Center. The new measles case, another adult male, was exposed at that physician’s office, Dermatology and Laser Institute of Colorado, located at the Lone Tree Medical Plaza, 9695 S. Yosemite St., Lone Tree. During the infectious phase, the second infected individual may have exposed others in the following locations at the following times:

- Lone Tree Medical Plaza, 9695 S. Yosemite St., Lone Tree  June 3-6
- Kent Denver School’s middle school graduation, Anschutz Theatre., 4000 E. Quincy Ave., Cherry Hills Village  10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 3
- Hodsons Bar & Grill, 6851 S. Gaylord St., Centennial  12:30-3:30 p.m. June 3
- Christ Lutheran Church, 8997 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch  6-9 p.m. June 3
- Highlands Ranch Orthodontics, 1420 W. Canal Ct., Littleton  3-5:30 p.m. June 5

The state health department now is advising anyone present at these locations during the times above to contact their health care provider to be vaccinated, as they may be at risk. People also should be alert for the symptoms of measles and contact a health care provider if they become ill.

Measles symptoms include fever; cough; runny nose; red, watery eyes; and a rash that usually begins on the face two to four days after the onset of other symptoms and typically spreads to hands and feet. Complications of measles include pneumonia and encephalitis (brain inflammation). In unvaccinated pregnant women, measles also can cause miscarriage or premature birth.
If you suspect you have measles, call a health care provider before going to a medical office or emergency room. Special arrangements must be made for you to be evaluated while also protecting other patients and medical staff from possible infection.

Dr. Lisa Miller, state epidemiologist, said, “With a second case of measles and fairly wide exposure, we could be seeing additional cases of measles in our community. Unfortunately, vaccination coverage levels in Colorado are not as high as we would like them to be. Now is the time to check your immunizations and make sure you and your family are protected.”

Tri-County Health Department is holding an immunization clinic for those who don’t have a health care provider on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until capacity is reached. There are no restrictions on age or residency. The clinic will be held at Aurora Fire Station No. 2, 12600 Hoffman Blvd. in Aurora. For additional clinic times, call the Tri-County immunization line at 303-451-0123.

Measles virus is spread when a person sneezes or coughs and sprays droplets in the air or on surfaces. Because the measles virus is highly contagious, other exposures may have occurred.

For more information about measles, the public can call CO-HELP at 1-877-462-2911 or 303-389-1687. COHelp is available 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

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