

Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**– GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT –
Measles Cases in Grant County**

On April 28, Grant County Public Health District received a report of 3 suspected measles cases from a healthcare provider. Upon investigation, all 8 of the children present in the household have had rash illnesses; all 8 are unimmunized. Neither parent has been ill. The first child to become ill developed a rash on April 12, the other 7 children in the household had rashes appear between April 18 and April 21. Five of the children recovered without incident.

On April 24th three of the children were taken to their health care provider due to their continued illness. On April 28, further evaluation of these children by the healthcare provider indicated signs of pneumonia. Blood tests taken at that time have been reported late April 29 as positive for measles antibodies.

Grant County Public Health Staff and the Washington State Department of Health are working together to locate contacts at risk for measles as well as determining who the source of the disease is. The family and healthcare provider involved have been very cooperative in assisting the investigation efforts. No school contacts have been identified.

“We have determined that close contacts within Grant County could have been exposed during the time period beginning April 8 through April 24,” says Peggy Grigg, Administrator/Personal Health Director for the Grant County Health District.

The family had attended a large event called the Generation Church (City Church) Conference in Kirkland, Washington, during the time period during which the first case could have been exposed to measles. There were two overlapping conference sessions March 25-March 27 and March 27-March 29. The Grant County family attended the second session. On March 27 attendees from both sessions were present together at combined events. Possibly up to 2000 persons attended, including some international travelers. Additional information about possible exposure sites will be shared as it becomes available.

The Grant County Health District is encouraging the vaccination of all children, and all non-immune adults. This is especially important for people who could be exposed to or could spread measles through their occupations or through travel. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccines are recommended at 12 months of age, with a second dose, at least 4 weeks later (usually at age 4). Please contact your healthcare provider or the Grant County Health District at 509-766-7960 for information on getting vaccinated for measles.

Please see the accompanying information on Measles from the Washington State Department of Health.

Contact your healthcare provider or the Grant County Health District immediately by telephone if you think that you or someone in your family may have measles. Do not show up at a healthcare facility or doctor’s office without calling ahead. Measles can be easily transmitted through the air in many indoor settings.

Measles Fact Sheet (Washington State Department of Health)

Description Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. It is also known as '10- day,' 'hard' or 'red' measles. Do not confuse this illness with rubella which is sometimes called 'German' or '3-day' measles.

Symptoms (last about a week) Rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes

Complications Can include diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis, seizures, and death

Transmission Droplet or airborne spread of the virus from the nose and mouth of a person who is infected. This is usually from sneezing, coughing or direct contact with items touched by a person with the disease. Airborne transmission can occur for up to two hours after a person with measles has been in a closed area.

Vaccine Measles vaccine (in the form of MMR, MR or measles only vaccines) can prevent this disease.

Which Adults Need Measles (Rubeola) Vaccine?

You should consider getting a measles vaccination if you were born in 1957 or later, AND:

- You have never had a measles vaccination or MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) **OR**
- You had a measles vaccination prior to 1968 **OR**
- You do not have a history of having had measles or a blood test that shows immunity to measles.

You are not required to get a blood test before getting measles vaccination.

Most adults need only one measles vaccination. A second dose of measles vaccine is recommended for health care workers and at the time of an exposure to measles. Also adults who were born in 1957 or later, who have had only one measles vaccination dose, and who are traveling outside the U.S. are recommended to get a second dose of measles vaccine prior to travel.

Which Children Need Measles (Rubeola) Vaccine?

- Any child 12 months age or older who have not previously been immunized with a measles vaccination.
- It is recommended that children receive a second dose between ages four to six years or 11 to 12 years. Both doses must have been given on or after the first birthday and at least 28 days apart.

When there is an outbreak of measles at a school or in a childcare setting, public health may require measles vaccination or may prevent children who are not immunized from attending school or childcare until the measles outbreak is over. Children who have had only one measles vaccination dose and who are traveling outside the U.S. are recommended to get a second dose of measles vaccine prior to travel.