



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

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## **19 Measles Cases Now Confirmed in Grant County**

**New Exposure Site Identified by Investigators.**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Washington State Public Health Laboratory testing has confirmed the 19<sup>th</sup> case of measles in the current outbreak. All cases are residents of Moses Lake. Local Public Health investigators have not yet identified a linkage to any previously identified case.

Moses Lake Wal-Mart (1005 N. Stratford Road) has been identified as a public exposure site; dates and times for potential exposures were:

- Tuesday, May 27 (the day following the Memorial Day Monday holiday), from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm;
- Wednesday, May 28, from 12:00 noon to 6:30 pm.

Individuals who were at Wal-Mart on those dates and times should review their immunity status. To be considered immune, an individual should have:

- 2 MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccines, after the age of 12 months, and at least 4 weeks apart; OR
- Medical history of having had measles; OR
- Laboratory testing showing immunity to measles. This can be done through a local healthcare provider. During the measles outbreak, Samaritan Hospital Laboratory is also offering this test for \$15 on a cash (or check basis), no appointment or doctor's order are necessary; the hours for walk-in patients to request this test at Samaritan Laboratory are 6 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday.
- In general, individuals born before 1957 are considered to be immune, but if they are working in healthcare settings or other settings with high levels of public contact the above criteria would apply.

Please contact your healthcare provider or the Grant County Health District 754-6060, if you have questions. Immunization clinics are routinely held the Grant County Health District offices: Moses Lake (1038 W. Ivy) on Wednesdays, 8:30-11am, and Ephrata (at the courthouse) on Mondays, 1-4 pm.

Additionally, the Grant County Health District Moses Lake office will be holding MMR clinics on Thursday, June 12, and, Friday, June 13, 9-11 am and 2-4 pm.

Grant County Health District staff and Region 7 Public Health Epidemiologist are working with health care providers and facilities to assure necessary precautions are in place for patients with rash like illnesses entering the facilities. Healthcare facilities are also examining the status of their own staff so that measures can be taken to assure that those caring for patients are not going to get the measles and transmit it to other patients.

The Health District has requested that Grant County schools, child cares and preschools review their student immunization records and strongly recommends that staff and students who are not fully vaccinated with the recommended 2 doses of MMR get immunized as soon as possible.

The public is advised to check immunization records to make sure everyone in your family is up-to-date on ALL their immunizations. Also, if you are showing symptoms of a rash-like illness, contact your health care provider to set up an appointment to be evaluated. **Do not show up at a healthcare facility or doctor's office without calling ahead.** Measles can be transmitted through the air in indoor settings, and can stay in the airspace for 2 hours after an infectious individual has left.

Measles ([www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/factsheet/measles.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/factsheet/measles.htm)) spreads very easily through coughing and sneezing. A person with measles can spread the disease for 4-5 days before to four days after the day the rash starts. Symptoms of measles may include a high fever, cold-like symptoms, and a rash. It may also cause more serious problems like pneumonia.

### **General MMR (Measles Vaccine) Immunization Recommendations**

- Any child 12 months age or older who has not previously been immunized should receive the first dose.
- It is routinely recommended that children receive a second dose of MMR between ages four to six years; during exposure and outbreak situations, the second dose can be given at any time as long as it is 4 weeks after the first. Having 2 doses of MMR vaccine is the best way to assure that you and your family child are immune to measles.
- Both doses must be given on or after the first birthday and at least 4 weeks apart.