

Pinal County Press Release

For Immediate Release

January 23, 2015

Contact: Joe Pyritz (520) 866-6226

Members of Pinal County Family Test Positive for Measles

FLORENCE – On January 22nd 2015 the Pinal County Public Health Services District identified four cases of measles in one family. The individuals had travel history to Disneyland between December 16th – 20th, 2014 and are believed to be linked to the ongoing multi-state outbreak associated with Disneyland. All four family members affected were unvaccinated and reside in the Kearny area. The Pinal County Health Services District is in the process of identifying individuals who may have been exposed and is working closely with the Arizona State Department of Health Services and other related organizations to notify those at risk.

Measles begins with fever (101 degrees F or higher), red, watery eyes, cough and coryza (runny nose). This is followed by a maculopapular rash (red, raised, and blotchy). The rash begins on the head at the hairline and moves down the trunk to the lower extremities. The rash may last for 5-6 days and turn brownish. Symptoms typically appear 7-12 days after exposure to measles but may take up to 21 days. A person with measles is considered to be contagious 4 days before rash onset (generally one day prior to fever) through the fourth day after rash onset.

“This is a case where a family that has decided to not vaccinate their children are experiencing the consequences of that decision in a very real way” said Public Health Director Tom Schryer. “These cases of measles will trigger a very intensive effort on the part of public health throughout the state and nation to identify others that they had contact with who are also unvaccinated so we can stop the transmission of this serious disease.”

Director Schryer also said, “Parents who make the decision to forgo vaccination for measles need to know that the complications from this disease are serious. One child of every 1,000 who get measles will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain) which can lead to convulsions and can leave the child deaf or mentally retarded. For every 1,000 children who get measles 1 or 2 will die from it. When making medical decisions it is imperative that we look at all of the risks involved and the science shows that vaccination saves lives so I urge all parents to immunize their children for measles – it can save your child’s life. It is very important to also note that children under the age of 1 years old are unable to be vaccinated. This age group needs to be protected from exposure. This reason alone is why parents should not take their infants to Disneyland.”

Two doses of MMR vaccine provide full protection against measles. Those that have not been vaccinated or have just received 1 dose of MMR should obtain vaccination immediately. For those that are unsure if they have previously received MMR vaccination, they should obtain at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine.

Healthcare providers and pharmacies should have MMR vaccine available. The Pinal County Public Health Services District has MMR vaccine available for both children and adults.

For more information, go to the Pinal County Public Health immunization webpage: <http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/Pages/Immunizations.aspx>

Please go to the following link for Pinal County Public Health Services District clinic locations: <http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/Pages/OfficeLocations.aspx>

Or for more information please contact the Pinal County Citizen Contact Center at 520-509-3555 or toll free at 1-888-431-1311.

Pinal County Press Release

For Immediate Release

January 27, 2015

Contact: Joe Pyritz (520) 866-6226

Kore Redden (520) 866-7331

Fifth Measles Case Identified in Pinal County

FLORENCE – The Pinal County Public Health Services District has confirmed a fifth case of measles in an adult male, who is now recovering. This individual was exposed to the family of four other cases identified last week residing in the Kearny area. This new case raises the possibility that some Pinal County residents or others in the area may have been exposed to measles since the patient visited public locations while infectious. This case was born after 1957 and reported only having one dose of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. Two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended in persons born after 1957.

Pinal County Public Health Services District has identified several public locations this patient visited while infectious. **If a person is unvaccinated or unsure of their vaccination status and visited any of the following businesses during these specific dates and timeframes, contact the Pinal County Public Health Department at 520-509-3555 or toll free at 1-888-431-1311.**

On **Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2015**, this patient visited four public locations in Kearny:

- Big D's, 1113 Tillbury, Kearny -- 5:30am-8:30am
- Gordon's IGA, 352 Alden Rd, Kearny-- 3:00pm-8:00pm
- Kearny Health Mart, 338 Alden Rd, Kearny -- 4:30pm-7:00pm
- Kearny Post Office, 388 Alden Rd, Kearny-- 3:00pm-8:00pm

On **Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2015**, this patient visited two public locations in Kearny:

- Cactus Mini-Mart, 352 Alden Rd, Kearny--5:30am-8:30am

“We have already contacted these places of business this patient visited. These businesses are assisting the health department by placing signs at their entrances to inform customers and employees that they could have been exposed if they were in these locations during specific timeframes” said Public Health Acting Director Kore Redden.

The risk of developing infection after brief encounters with persons with measles is low, but as a precaution, people who were in the above locations at the times listed should:

- Review their vaccination history. People who have not received the measles vaccine are at higher risk for developing measles after an exposure, so they should talk with a health care provider about receiving MMR vaccination.
- Monitor themselves for illness with fever and unexplained rash until February 13, 2015 (the time period when symptoms may develop); if symptoms develop, they should stay at

home and call a health care provider immediately. Explain that they have been exposed to a measles case and may be infectious with measles, and have their doctor notify the Public Health Department at 520-509-3555 or toll free at 1-888-431-1311.

- You can only get measles once, so if they were sick with measles as a child, they are immune and are not at risk for developing measles again.

Measles begins with fever (101 degrees F or higher), red, watery eyes, cough and coryza (runny nose). This is followed by a maculopapular rash (red, raised, and blotchy). The rash begins on the head at the hairline and moves down the trunk to the lower extremities. The rash may last for 5-6 days and turn brownish. Symptoms typically appear 7-12 days after exposure to measles but may take up to 21 days. A person with measles is considered to be contagious 4 days before rash onset (generally one day prior to fever) through the fourth day after rash onset.

Two doses of MMR vaccine provide full protection against measles. Those that have not been vaccinated or have just received 1 dose of MMR should obtain vaccination immediately (it takes about two weeks to build immunity). For those that are unsure if they have previously received MMR vaccination, they should obtain at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine. Residents should check with their healthcare providers or local pharmacy about the availability of MMR vaccine. The Pinal County Public Health Services District has MMR vaccine available for both children and adults. For more information, please go to the following link at:

<http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/Pages/OfficeLocations.aspx> or call 520-509-3555 or toll free at 1-888-431-1311.

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