



1819 Farnam St., Room 401, Omaha, Nebraska, 68183-0401

*Promoting and Protecting Public Health*

**For Immediate Release: May 19, 2010**  
**Contact: Phil Rooney, 444-6427. 669-1602**

## **Health Department: Possible Additional Measles Exposures in Douglas County**

The Douglas County Health Department has identified three additional cases of the measles. The Health Department has learned that all three siblings of the child who was reported sick last week developed symptoms on Monday, May 17.

“These additional cases involving the siblings were expected,” Health Director Dr. Adi Pour said. “None of the children in the family had been vaccinated.”

Additional exposures within the community may have occurred on Sunday, May 16, between 4 and 8 p.m. at:

- Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Oakview Mall, 144<sup>th</sup> and West Center Road
- Half Price Books, Westwood Plaza, 120<sup>th</sup> and West Center Road
- Borders Bookstore, 132<sup>nd</sup> and West Maple Street.
- KFC, just north of 132<sup>nd</sup> and West Center Road

Also, through additional interviews, several other locations have been identified at the Henry Doorly Zoo where exposures may have occurred on May 7. Anyone not immune to measles that was at any part of the zoo on that day should be closely monitored for symptoms of measles.

Here are the locations of the original May 6 to May 9 exposures:

- Anywhere at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo on Friday May 7
- Any morning Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church on Friday, May 7, and Sunday May 9
- The HyVee Grocery Store at 156th and Maple on Friday, May 7 in the morning.
- The Target Store at 132nd and Maple on Thursday evening, May 6, after 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 8, after 4 p.m.

If a person was in one of the locations on the dates listed above and develops symptoms of measles, they should call their healthcare provider right away to discuss their symptoms and their potential exposure before showing up at a clinic. The provider will advise them to either come to the clinic or arrange a visit at a different location so that other people are not exposed. Those who were infected at the events listed above could now be developing symptoms.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness. It spreads through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing. It is so contagious that any person who is exposed to it and is not immune probably will get the disease.

Those most at risk of being infected with the measles are anyone who has had one dose or no doses of MMR vaccine, or who has not previously had the measles. Most people less than 35 years of age who followed school entry requirements and had two doses of MMR vaccine have a very low risk of developing measles. Anyone who failed to get the required two doses is at high risk if they were exposed to a person shedding the measles virus. If you have not received two doses of MMR vaccine, you should consider vaccination at this time, especially if you were at one of the locations listed above.

Symptoms of measles generally begin within 7-14 days after exposure and usually in about 10 days. A typical case begins with fever, cough, runny nose, red watery eyes and a sore throat. Two or three days after the symptoms begin, tiny white spots may appear inside the mouth. Three to five days after the start of symptoms a red or reddish-brown rash appears on the face at the hairline and spreads downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet.

If you have questions, please call your physician or the Douglas County Health Department at 444-3400, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**[www.douglascountyhealth.com](http://www.douglascountyhealth.com)**

**Adi Pour, Ph.D., Director  
1819 Farnam St., #401  
Omaha, NE 68183**