



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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March 25, 2014

TO: Supervisor Shawn Nelson, Fourth District, Chair
Supervisor Patricia C. Bates, Fifth District, Vice Chair
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Second District
Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Third District

SUBJECT: Update on Increased Measles Activity

We are providing an update to your Honorable Board to the Board Information Letter dated March 13, 2014 addressing the unusually high number of measles cases in Orange County. As of today, Orange County has twenty-one confirmed cases this year, more than half reported during the past week. By comparison, Orange County had a total of three cases during the five years preceding this current activity. Orange County has the highest number of measles cases among California counties for 2014.

Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease that is typically acquired by a non-immune traveler exposed to the disease outside the country. While this outbreak was likely brought to Orange County by a traveler, it is now being transmitted between people across the county. Measles is a highly infectious disease that can cause serious illness and even death, particularly for people with underlying health conditions and the very young. It can also cause significant health risks to pregnant women.

Orange County Public Health is working diligently to address this outbreak and we are in daily communication with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regarding the response efforts. It is likely that we will see additional measles cases so we are taking necessary steps to prepare for a coordinated response. Public Health continues to perform the activities outlined in the previous Board Information Letter in an effort to reduce measles transmission and adverse health outcomes. In addition to those activities, the following actions have been taken to manage the increased activity and prepare for a continued response:

1. Temporarily reassigned staff to Epidemiology from other Public Health programs to provide additional support needed for response. CDPH has also provided two employees who arrived Monday, March 23rd.
2. Established a temporary satellite measles clinic on the 17th Street Campus. This clinic is dedicated to measles related clinical needs such as testing for immunity or for

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- disease and for administration of injections for people exposed to cases. This dedicated clinic keeps measles contacts separate from other clinical services and provides additional support to Epidemiology so that they can focus on the disease investigation response.
3. Providing daily communications to Health Care Agency leadership which includes status update of case count, logistical response issues and communication plans. Daily meetings/conference calls are scheduled and held if needed which is determined day to day.
 4. Contracting with a community clinic that is open evenings and weekends to provide better coordinated access for contacts who need testing for immunity and or prophylactic injections to prevent disease.
 5. Communicating with the medical provider community to coordinate an effective response to the outbreak between Public Health and the private health care providers.
 6. Developing a revised communication plan regarding the messaging for the general community. Due to the large number of cases and exposure sites we have ceased issuing press releases for each case outlining exposure sites and time and are reframing messaging to a broader public message related to increased spread of disease.

We will continue to provide updates to the Board as information changes. Please feel free to contact David Souleles, MPH, Deputy Agency Director, Public Health Services, at (714) 834-3882, if you have any questions.



Mark A. Refowitz, Director

cc: Michael B. Giancola, County Executive Officer
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer