

Date: February 4, 2008

First Measles Cluster in Children Since 1991

Parents and students of the San Diego Cooperative Charter School are being notified of a cluster of measles cases involving 2 siblings who attend the school, as well as a third sibling who is also infected. None of the children were immunized for measles. This is the first local cluster of measles in children since 1991. There have been 4 isolated cases of measles in the county since 2003.

Students not vaccinated for measles due to personal beliefs, medical issues or other reasons will be excluded from school between February 4-21, 2008. Students with documentation of at least one dose of measles vaccine prior to January 24, 2008 will not be excluded. If children are immunized today, they can be back in school on Tuesday, February 5th. These dates may be extended if additional cases are identified. Newly immunized children should be evaluated every day (until the incubation period has ended) for any early symptoms of measles. If they develop any of the prodromal symptoms they should not attend school.

Healthcare providers are recommended to consider measles in persons with acute febrile and rash illness. In addition to serologic (IgM) specimens, throat swabs or urine should be collected for viral isolation. Patients suspected of having measles should be immediately reported to the San Diego County Immunization Branch at (619) 692-8661. Early identification and prompt reporting of suspect cases will facilitate timely case investigation and post-exposure prophylaxis of close contacts to prevent the spread of measles in the community.

Measles can be safely prevented by the combination vaccine: MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella). All persons born in 1957 or after should have documentation of at least one dose of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) or other evidence of immunity to measles. Persons who are not immune should be given MMR vaccine or immune globulin according to ACIP recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/acip-list.htm>.

For more information, please contact the Immunization Branch at (619) 692-8661 or visit their website at www.sdiz.org. Additional information about measles can be found at the following CDC website: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_measles.htm

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch