



County of San Luis Obispo • Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue • P.O. Box 1489
San Luis Obispo, California 93406
805-781-5520 • FAX 805-781-1048
Penny Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

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CONTACT:

Ann McDowell, MPH
Epidemiologist
805 788-2095

Measles Diagnosed in San Luis Obispo County International Traveler

The California Department of Public Health has confirmed measles in a San Luis Obispo County international traveler. The patient had recently returned from a trip to France, where measles cases have been occurring at epidemic levels for the past two years. The patient returned to the County in a private car, did not visit any local establishments, and subsequently went to the hospital.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease, and although no local public exposures are believed to have occurred from this patient, measles has increased dramatically in Europe, Asia and Africa, and 14 cases have occurred to date in California this year. All persons, especially travelers, should keep up to date on recommended immunizations, and always seek immunization recommendations for areas where they intend to travel.

Symptoms of measles include a rash that can range from pink to red blotches, which can merge into large areas of the skin, fever, cough, runny nose, red or swollen watery eyes, and white spots in the mouth. Measles is usually a moderate to serious illness, with intense malaise and feelings of discomfort. Individuals who develop a rash with fever should contact their medical provider immediately. It is recommended that anyone suspecting they might have measles call before visiting their provider, a clinic, or ER to prevent transmission to other persons. This will allow appropriate precautions to be taken as they receive care.

Persons born before 1957 are generally considered immune. Those born after 1957 and who have received two doses of vaccine are also considered immune. Individuals who have received only one dose of vaccine, or are considered immune-compromised are at higher risk for infection.

For further information on vaccination, please call the Public Health Department at (805) 781-5500. For further information on measles, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/measles>.

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