

**EPI Update for Friday, April 17, 2009-ALERT**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

? Measles Case In Northwest Iowa

A case of measles has been reported in a Clay County child. This situation is being treated as an emergency public health threat. Measles spreads easily and can cause serious disease and death.

If a person has symptoms of measles, they should call their health care provider and arrange to be seen in a manner that does not expose anyone to measles. (Make sure those who triage acutely ill patients to ask about symptoms). Health care providers should see the patient in their home (was done during our last outbreak), see the patient in their car in the clinic or ER parking lot, have them come and leave by a back door and be seen in an examining room that then is not used again for 3 hours. Do not have those with symptoms of measles sit in a waiting room. Large outbreaks have been caused this way. All health care workers who may see patients with measles should either be fully vaccinated (two doses of MMR), or have serologic evidence of immunity, or be born prior to 1957 and know that they had measles.

If you see a patient that you believe may have measles, draw a blood specimen for IgM testing and call 1-800-362-2736 immediately to report and to arrange for emergency testing. Then have the patient go home and stay home until it is determined if they have measles.

If you have any questions, please call IDPH at 515-242-5935. (Please do not call Clay County as they are focusing on addressing this public health issue.)

*Please read the following information:*

A case of measles has been reported in a Clay County child. IDPH and local health officials have identified locations the child visited while infectious and may have exposed people to measles. Those people who have been exposed to measles can be prevented from getting the disease by receiving immune globulin.

Since we do not know where or who exposed this child to measles, there may be others in the community either with measles or already exposed to measles, thus everyone needs to watch for the symptoms of measles. These symptoms include fever, cough, red/pink eyes, runny nose and a rash. Anyone, regardless of age, who has not had measles or has not been adequately immunized, can get measles if exposed. Most cases occur in unimmunized preschoolers and young adults.

Measles can be a serious illness, causing pneumonia, deafness, and brain inflammation. Two to three people out of 1,000 who get measles die from the disease. It is easily spread through the air and there is no treatment for the illness, so prevention is critical. It's important to remember

measles is so contagious it can be transmitted even after the ill person has left the building, or can be transmitted by passing an ill person in the hallway.

**A vaccination clinic will be held today starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Spencer Medical Arts Building located at 116 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Spencer for those who may have been exposed at the following locations:**

**Saturday, April 11, 2009**

Spencer Indoor Soccer Complex (Easter Egg Hunt) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Dayspring Assembly of God church (Easter Egg Hunt) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Longhouse nursing home (Spencer) from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m.  
Spencer Burger King from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Spencer Walmart from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 12, 2009**

Hope-The Junction church in Spencer (services) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Spencer Hy-Vee grocery store from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Longhouse-Northshire nursing home (Spencer) from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Spencer Burger King 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Spencer Hospital emergency department from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

Avera Health – Spencer Family Care from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Additional Clinics may be scheduled as necessary.**

Any individuals (adults and children) who visited the above locations in Spencer at the listed times should check to make sure they have received two MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccines. Those older than their mid-50s and know that they had measles as a child do not need to be vaccinated. If you suspect you or your child may already have symptoms of measles, call your health care provider immediately. Do not go to the doctor's office, ER or a walk-in clinic until arrangements are made to be seen by your health care provider in a place and manner that will not potentially expose others to measles.

For more information about measles, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/)