

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Houston, Harris County Public Health Investigate Possible Measles Cases**

Local public health authorities are conducting an investigation of a confirmed case of measles and two suspected cases. The three cases traveled to a resort area of Mexico during the Thanksgiving holidays. Test results on all suspects are expected to be complete in the next few days.

Measles is a highly infectious airborne viral disease that has mostly been eliminated through immunization. Symptoms include:

- Generalized rash lasting three or more days
- Fever greater than or equal to 101 degrees
- Cough, runny nose and/or conjunctivitis (pink eye)

The incubation period for measles is 7-18 days, most often 14 days. A person with measles will be infectious to others typically four days before to four days after the onset of the rash.

Since 1991, measles has occurred only sporadically in the United States, usually in people with recent foreign travel experience. Measles outbreaks still occur worldwide. Therefore, Houston Department of Health and Human Services and Harris County Public Health and Environmental Service recommend that travelers assure they are up-to-date on their vaccinations. While the majority of Texas school children receive two doses of vaccine before entering school, many adults typically have only received one dose.

**-more-**

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 99 percent of the people who receive 2 doses of measles vaccine are considered immune to the disease.

The Houston Department of Health and Human Services and Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services recommend that anyone traveling out of the country in the next few weeks ensure they and their family are immune to measles. The following people are considered immune to measles:

- People born before 1957 (these people are considered naturally immune)
- People who have received **two doses** of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine) thirty days apart
- People who have had a doctor confirmed case of measles
- People who have had a blood test confirming immunity to measles.

The measles vaccine is administered to children after the first birthday. A second dose is recommended at age four, but can be administered anytime 30 days after the first dose.

For more measles information, visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/measles/faqs.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/measles/faqs.htm).

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