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MEDIA ADVISORY: MEASLES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Santa Clara County, CA. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department has confirmed two cases of measles in Santa Clara County. These cases raise the possibility that some Santa Clara County residents may have been exposed to measles since the patients visited public locations while infectious.

On Sunday, January 18, a person infectious with measles visited two locations in Gilroy:

- Costco, 7251 Camino Arroyo, Gilroy – 4 to 6 pm
- Walmart, 7150 Camino Arroyo, Gilroy – 4 to 6 pm

On Monday, January 19, this person also visited this location in Milpitas:

- Dave & Busters, 940 Great Mall Drive, Milpitas – 6 to 9 pm (please note that the individual did not walk through the Great Mall.)

The Public Health Department has been working with these businesses to alert people who may have been exposed to measles so that employees and customers can check their vaccination records and make sure that they are protected. The risk of developing infection after brief encounters with persons with measles is low, but as a precaution, people who were in the above locations at the times listed should:

- Review their vaccination history. People who have not received the measles vaccine are at higher risk for developing measles after an exposure, so they should talk with a health care provider about receiving MMR vaccination.
- Monitor themselves for illness with fever and unexplained rash until February 8 (the time period when symptoms may develop); if symptoms develop, they should stay at home and call a health care provider immediately. Explain that they have been exposed to a measles case and may be infectious with measles, and have their doctor notify the Public Health Department.
- You can only get measles once, so if they were sick with measles as a child, they are immune and are not at risk for developing measles again.

Measles is highly contagious yet highly preventable through vaccinations. Measles can be prevented by the combination MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children get two doses: the first dose at 12–15 months of age, and the second dose at 4–6 years of age. Measles vaccination protects not just the person being vaccinated, but the community around them, including babies less than 12 months old who are too young to be vaccinated.

Adolescents and adults also need to be up to date on vaccinations. People born before 1957 are considered immune as they likely had measles as children and developed natural immunity. If you have any questions about your vaccination status, consult your doctor, who may elect to give you another MMR shot or perform a blood test to check for immunity to measles.

For more information about measles please visit www.sccphd.org and click on “Measles Information”, and see the CDC’s measles information page at www.cdc.gov/measles.

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