



Ashland County Health Department

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Title: Ashland County Health Department Confirms First Measles Case in Ashland County

Ashland, Ohio - The Ashland County Health Department (ACHD) has confirmed the county's first case of measles. Public health officials are conducting an investigation to identify and notify individuals who may have been exposed.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. The virus can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.

"We understand that news of a measles case may be concerning to our community," said Vickie Taylor, Health Commissioner for the Ashland County Health Department. "Our team is working closely with healthcare providers and state public health partners to identify potential exposures, notify affected individuals, and take appropriate steps to prevent further spread of the disease."

Symptoms of Measles

Measles symptoms typically appear 7 to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- A rash that usually begins on the face and spreads downward across the body

Individuals who develop these symptoms should contact their healthcare provider before seeking in-person medical care to help prevent exposing others.

Vaccination Provides Strong Protection

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the most effective way to prevent measles infection. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are highly effective in preventing measles and its complications.

ACHD encourages residents to:

- Review their vaccination records.
- Ensure children are up to date on recommended immunizations.



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- Contact their healthcare provider if they are unsure of their vaccination status.
- Be alert for symptoms if they believe they may have been exposed.

Public Health Response

The Health Department is conducting contact tracing and assessing potential exposure locations. Individuals identified as having a potential exposure will be contacted directly and provided guidance regarding symptom monitoring, vaccination recommendations, and other preventive measures as appropriate.

At this time, the risk to the general public remains low. However, measles is one of the most contagious diseases known, and public health officials urge residents to take preventive measures to protect themselves and their families.

Additional information about measles and vaccination can be found on the Ashland County Health Department website or by contacting ACHD at 419-282-4231.

About the Ashland County Health Department

The Ashland County Health Department works to protect and improve the health of all residents through disease prevention, health promotion, environmental health services, emergency preparedness, and community partnerships.

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