



MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO.1

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Press Release

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Measles Outbreak Reaches Monmouth County

(Tinton Falls) - The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) reports there are now 11 confirmed cases of measles in NJ. That number may increase as there are currently 2 cases in Monmouth County with direct epidemiologic links to the outbreak community in Ocean County.

The current outbreak is the second measles outbreak in NJ in the last year. There were 33 people confirmed to have contracted measles during the first outbreak. According to Ocean County Health Department, of those 33 people, 79% were not vaccinated with the MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella).

“Measles is very contagious; we are working closely with the State Department of Health and other supporting agencies to prevent further exposures. We could potentially need to quarantine members of a household to their home during the active stage of the virus.” said David Henry, Health Officer at the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission No. 1 (MCRHC).

Measles can be spread from person to person easily through coughing or sneezing. A person can even be contagious four days prior to the typical rash appearing. People who are unvaccinated are ninety percent more likely to get measles when they come in contact with someone with the virus. It is also known that the virus can live in the air or on surfaces for up to 2 hours. Symptoms may include high fever, cough, runny nose, red watery eyes and rash appearing days later.

The MCRHC encourages residents to check their family immunization records and be sure children and adults have all the recommended age-appropriate vaccinations. The [NJDOH](http://njdoh.org) has a list of locations where potential exposures may have occurred. If you think you have been exposed to measles **call** your health care provider **before you stop in**. Your provider can make the proper arrangements for you and potentially prevent further spread of the virus. Individuals potentially exposed, if infected, could develop symptoms as late as April 21.

Mr. Henry says, “With spring break and summer coming up, we know there will be people traveling...be sure to be up-to-date on your vaccinations. There are many countries overseas that are also seeing these outbreaks. Let’s prevent another one here.”

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The Monmouth County Regional Health Commission (MCRHC) provides shared public health services to twenty (20) towns: Allenhurst, Brielle, Deal, Fair Haven, Highlands, Interlaken, Little Silver, Loch Arbour, Middletown, Monmouth Beach, Ocean Township, Red Bank, Rumson, Sea Bright, Sea Girt, Shrewsbury, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights, Tinton Falls, and West Long Branch.