



Public Health

Idaho North Central District



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: Public Health Officials Confirm Measles Case in Latah County Resident

LEWISTON, IDAHO – Public Health – Idaho North Central District (PH-INCD) announced today that it has received confirmation of a case of measles in a Latah County resident; the first confirmed case of measles in Idaho since 2001. Public Health – Idaho North Central District is collaborating with Gritman Medical Center and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to respond.

Measles is preventable and the way to prevent an outbreak is to ensure that all children and adults, who can be vaccinated, do get vaccinated. If you are ill and think you have measles, stay at home contact your healthcare provider. If you think you have been exposed and you are not vaccinated stay at home and contact Public Health. If you have questions about your vaccination status contact your healthcare provider.

Below is the location of potential exposure to the public of this measles case in Latah County before the measles diagnosis was made, the individual with measles was in the following public location while contagious:

Date	Time	Location
May 31, 2019	11 am – 2:30 pm	Gritman Medical Center, Laboratory & Imaging Waiting Area

These times include the period when the individual was at the location and two hours after. Measles virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after someone infectious with measles leaves the area. Anyone who was at this location during the times listed above could have been exposed to measles. Public Health is notifying patients and their families who were at this location in Latah County and might have been exposed. If additional exposure locations are identified, they will be added to a list and locations of exposure in Latah County at <http://idahopublichealth.com/district-2/measles>.

What to do if you were in a location of potential measles exposure

Most people in Latah County have immunity to the measles through vaccination, so the risk to the general public is low. However, anyone who was in the locations of potential exposure to measles around the times listed above should:

- Find out if you have been vaccinated for measles or have had measles previously. Make sure you are up-to-date with the recommended number of measles (MMR) vaccinations.
- Call a healthcare provider promptly if you develop an illness with fever or illness with an unexplained rash. To avoid possibly spreading measles to others, **do not go to a clinic or hospital without calling first** to tell them you might have measles and could be contagious.
- Vaccination or medication can be given after exposure in some cases to prevent illness – check with your healthcare provider. This is especially important for people at high risk for measles complications.

Measles is a highly contagious and potentially severe disease. It mainly spreads through the air after a person with measles coughs or sneezes.

Measles symptoms (fever, cough, and red, watery eyes, followed by a rash) begin 7 to 21 days after exposure. Measles is contagious from approximately four days before the rash appears through four days after the rash appears. People can spread measles before they have the characteristic measles rash.

Measles complications can include ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia, and rarely, encephalitis (brain inflammation). Complications from measles can happen even in healthy people but those at highest risk include infants and children under 5 years, adults over 20 years, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems from drugs or underlying disease. See <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/public/index.html> for information on measles vaccine.

To learn more, please call your healthcare provider or Public Health - Idaho North Central District at 208-748-0400 or visit <http://idahopublichealth.com/district-2/measles>.

To contact the Department of Health and Welfare, please call 208-334-0668.