



APRIL 10, 2006

HEALTH ADVISORY

Measles Case at American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery Annual Meeting

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received a report of a probable case of measles identified in a 42-year-old physician from Caracas, Venezuela. The case traveled to Chicago on March 21, where the case attended the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery (AAOS) 2006 Annual Meeting at the McCormick Place Convention Center on March 22 – 24. The case stayed at the W Chicago Lakeshore Hotel and returned to Venezuela on March 26.

The case had fever, conjunctivitis, cough and a rash onset of March 29, 2006. The case has not been laboratory confirmed, but has met the clinical case definition for measles and is epidemiologically linked to laboratory-confirmed cases in Venezuela. The case worked in the emergency room at a medical facility in Venezuela where confirmed measles cases were reported.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) recommends that measles be considered in anyone who develops a rash illness and who attended the AAOS meeting. The incubation period for measles is generally 7 to 12 days, but can be as long as 18 days. Serologic testing for measles is available from the NDDoH Division of Microbiology. Measles virus can also be isolated from clinical specimens, such as urine, blood or nasopharyngeal secretions.

The clinical case definition for measles is:

- A generalized maculopapular rash lasting ≥ 3 days
- A temperature $\geq 101^\circ$ F
- Cough, coryza or conjunctivitis

Healthcare workers born after 1957 are recommended to be vaccinated with two doses of measles-containing vaccine. People born prior to 1957 are usually considered to be immune to measles, but medical facilities may want to consider vaccination of workers born prior to 1957 to ensure immunity.

Please contact the NDDoH Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180 with any questions or concerns regarding this issue.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.
- Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.