



**MAY 22, 2007**

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **North Dakota Residents Exposed to Measles at Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico**

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) was notified by the New Mexico Department of Health that 48 North Dakota residents who attended the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico, were potentially exposed to measles.

The original case arrived in Albuquerque from India on May 12. On May 16, the case presented with a history of cough, fever, and a rash on the face that had spread down the body on the same day. The case has been laboratory confirmed as measles. Measles can be transmitted four days before to four days after rash onset. The period of communicability for this case was May 12 – 20. The case attended the science fair during that time period.

Measles transmission is primarily person to person via large respiratory droplets, but airborne transmission can occur. The NDDoH recommends that measles be considered in anyone who develops a rash illness and who attended the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. The incubation period for measles is generally seven to 12 days, but can be as long as 18 days. Serologic testing for measles is available from the NDDoH Division of Laboratory Services. 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  $\geq 3$  days
- A temperature  $\geq 101^\circ$  F
- Cough, coryza or conjunctivitis

The NDDoH is in the process of contacting all North Dakota residents who were potentially exposed to measles at the science fair to ensure that they all have a history of measles vaccination and that none of the attendees have developed a rash. Two doses of measles vaccine as a combination MMR separated by at least four weeks are routinely recommended for all children. Two doses of MMR are required for all children attending kindergarten through grade 12 in North Dakota. Two doses of MMR are also required for people attending colleges in North Dakota. Studies indicate that 99 percent of people who receive two doses of MMR are immune to measles. All adults born in 1957 and after should have documentation of at least one dose of MMR or other evidence of measles immunity. Birth before 1957 is generally considered acceptable evidence of immunity to measles.

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.*