



MARCH 31, 2006

HEALTH ADVISORY

Outbreak of Mumps in Iowa

As of March 28, 2006, a total of 219 confirmed and probable cases of mumps have been reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health. Thirty-two percent of cases have occurred in college students. The majority of the cases have been vaccinated against mumps: 65 percent of cases have a history of two MMRs (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine) and 80 percent have a history of at least one MMR.

Five cases of mumps were reported in North Dakota in 2005. Two of the reported cases were fully vaccinated with MMR vaccine. The reported cases were all unrelated and occurred throughout the state. North Dakota usually has only one case of mumps reported each year. No cases of mumps have been reported in 2006.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is encouraging physicians to consider mumps when evaluating patients with an acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary gland, lasting more than two days without other apparent cause. Mumps should not be ruled out in someone who has symptoms clinically consistent with the disease, based solely on the person having a vaccination history with MMR vaccine.

Mumps serologic testing is available from the NDDoH Division of Microbiology. Acute serums should be collected within five days after symptom onset. The NDDoH is asking that providers also collect a specimen from the buccal mucosa from suspected mumps cases for mumps viral isolation. Mumps virus may be isolated from seven days prior until five to nine days after salivary enlargement.

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.