



Three additional cases of measles have been confirmed in suburban Cook County bringing the total to eight. These cases include two adults and six infants all of whom are unvaccinated. Seven of these cases are associated with the KinderCare Learning Center in Palatine.

Vaccination is critical to curbing the ongoing transmission.

- Although the overall risk of getting measles in suburban Cook County remains low, residents who have not received measles-containing vaccine should get a dose of MMR vaccine.
- Two doses of MMR vaccine are 99 percent effective in preventing measles. The measles vaccine is administered as MMR, a combination vaccine that provides protection against measles, mumps, and rubella.
- The first dose is recommended at 12-15 months of age and the second dose at 4-6 years of age.
- The measles vaccine is the best way to protect you and your family.
- At this time transmission is not widespread and the risk is low; however, we understand residents are concerned. Individuals who are unable to get vaccinated and parents with children less than 12 months of age who are too young to be vaccinated may want to consider limiting unnecessary visits to public places to reduce the risk of exposure to the measles disease.

Measles is highly contagious, infecting 9 out of 10 people who are exposed if unvaccinated. Symptoms can be confused initially with the common cold because it typically starts with a low-grade fever with a cough and runny nose and then it produces a spreading rash and itchy red eyes. Infected people are contagious from approximately 4 days before their rash starts to 4 days after.

Unvaccinated individuals who develop symptoms should call their healthcare provider; do not go to the doctor's office or emergency room without calling ahead so that staff are able to take appropriate precautions to prevent others from being infected.

Providers should consider measles in patients who present with a fever and a rash; or fever, cough, conjunctivitis and cold symptoms, and promptly institute infection prevention measures.

Daily updates on the suburban Cook County measles situation will be posted at 11:30am to the Cook County Department of Public Health website at: <http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org>.

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