

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Secretary Designee Catherine Torres, MD

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Department of Health Investigating Measles Case in New Mexico Resident
Health Department working to identify those who may have been exposed to measles

(Santa Fe) -- The New Mexico Department of Health announced today that it is investigating case of the measles in Santa Fe County. The Department's Scientific Laboratory Division confirmed the case in a 27-year-old woman who was not immunized against the disease and had recently returned from a trip overseas. The person is currently hospitalized. This is the first confirmed measles case in New Mexico since 2008.

"We are working with the patient and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify people who may have been exposed so we can prevent more cases of the disease," said Secretary Designate of the Department of Health Catherine Torres, MD. "This case should serve as a reminder to all of us to keep our immunizations up to date – especially when it comes to children. Immunizations are the best tool we have to protect people from serious and potentially life threatening diseases."

Measles is highly contagious and transmitted through the air. Early symptoms of measles include: red eyes, fever, runny nose and cough. Within a few days following the cough and runny nose, a rash will begin on the face and spread down the body. Measles is diagnosed by a combination of symptoms and laboratory testing.

The Department of Health has identified the following airline flight the person was on while contagious: Southwest Airlines flight 2605 scheduled departure from Denver at 9:55pm and arriving at Albuquerque Sunport at approximately 11:10pm on February 22. Passengers are considered protected from measles infection if they were born before 1957, had measles in the past, or have received two doses of measles vaccine.

People who may have been exposed to measles and develop an illness should call their medical provider first to make arrangements to be seen without exposing other patients to the virus. Signs and symptoms of measles include an illness with fever, cough, runny nose, or pink eye and the development of a rash.

Adults needing measles vaccine can contact their medical provider or Nurse Advice New Mexico at 1-877-725-2552. Vaccines are free for any child in New Mexico, regardless of insurance status, under the Vaccines for Children program. Children who have no insurance

coverage can get the vaccine at their local public health office. Public health office contact information can be found in the blue pages of the phonebook or online at www.nmhealth.org.

Infants under one year of age, pregnant women, or immunocompromised individuals who were exposed to the measles patient may need to receive other medications to protect them.

Medical providers should report suspect cases of measles to the Department of Health's Epidemiology and Response Division at (505) 827-0006.

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