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Press Release: Hill County Confirms Two Additional Measles Cases

Possible Measles Exposure at Walmart in Hill County.

Hill County Health Department has confirmed 2 new measles cases in Hill County residents with possible public exposure.

Hill County Health Department is investigating 2 confirmed measles cases in Hill County. The cases were contacts to the first confirmed case and are both children who are unvaccinated. Disease investigation staff determined one location of public exposure during a specific time frame: Walmart on Friday May $23^{\rm rd}$ from $5:30 \, \rm pm - 8:00 \, pm$. Anyone who was at this location during this time may have been exposed to measles.

Those concerned about exposure are encouraged to check their immunization status by following this link: https://form.jotform.com/250644931030044 or calling their primary care provider. If you were at the above listed location during that time and are not immune to measles, the symptoms likely would appear between 7-21 days. People who have weakened immune systems may take longer to experience symptoms. If you start to have symptoms of measles, call your primary care provider or health department, do not just show up. This allows for protections to be put in place to limit exposure.

If you have questions please email the health department at <u>HCHD@hillcounty.us</u>, or call 406-400-2415.

More Information on Measles:

Measles mainly spreads through the air after a person with measles coughs or sneezes. If one person has it, up to 9 out of 10 people in the same room will become infected if they are not protected.

Measles symptoms begin 7 to 21 days after exposure. Generally, measles is contagious from about 4 days before the rash appears through 4 days after the rash appears. People can spread measles before they develop the characteristic rash.

Complications from measles can happen even in healthy people, but those at highest risk include infants and children under 5 years old, adults 20 years and older, pregnant people, and people with weakened immune systems from medications or underlying disease. If you are in one of these high-risk groups and were exposed to measles at one of these locations, be sure to contact your healthcare provider to discuss any steps you need to take to protect yourself or loved ones against complications with measles.

Get vaccinated to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Measles is preventable with the safe and highly effective measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2 doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles and that protection is long-lasting.