

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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### Oneida County Health Cautions About Measles Exposure *State DOH: "Possible Exposure at Albany Medical Center"*

The Oneida County Health Department is alerting area health care providers about possible exposure to measles that may have occurred at Albany Medical Center in the past week, Director of Health Phyllis D. Ellis announced today.

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has reported two confirmed cases of measles in the Capital Region, the second involving a child who was admitted to the center and may have caused exposure to anyone visiting either C or D Buildings from 7:45 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31 or C7 between 8:00 p.m. Friday, January 31 and midnight on Saturday, February 1.

*"It's important to note that no cases of measles have been confirmed in Oneida County at this time,"* Ellis said. She continued, *"However area health care providers and the public should be aware of the situation and if anyone has not been immunized against measles and was treated or visited Albany Medical Center during that time frame be aware of the risk of infection."*

Measles is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease spread by contact with the nasal or throat excretions of an infected person. Generally thought to be a childhood disease, measles can be contracted at any age if the person is not immune. First stage symptoms include a runny nose, cough and slight fever and may last two to four days. Eyes may become reddened and sensitive to light while the fever continues to rise peaking at 103 to 105 degrees. The second stage of the infection usually begins on the third to seventh day and is marked by a blotchy rash beginning on the face and spreading downward and outward reaching the hands and feet. It can last five to six days before fading in the same sequence it appeared. Measles can cause serious side effects, and in rare cases, even death.

Ellis emphasized that most New Yorkers are immune to measles having received the required doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine or if born before January 1, 1957. Those who have a history of laboratory-confirmed measles or a blood test confirming measles immunity are also not at risk.

*"Anyone who is unsure if they are immune to measles should consult their primary health care provider or the Oneida County Health Department. Any person who knows they are not immune and becomes ill with a rash and fever should call their health care provider and inform them of possible measles exposure before visiting the provider's office in order to prevent possible exposure to others,"* Ellis said.

For more information about measles or the MMR vaccine, visit the Oneida County Health Department web site at [www.ocgov.net/oneida/health](http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/health) or call (315) 798-5748.