



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
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Dear Parents,

We are writing to update you on the measles situation in California and in Santa Cruz County, and to recommend that everyone in the community review their vaccination records and get the measles vaccine if needed.

As of January 26th, 73 people in California have been confirmed with measles. Of those, 50 (68%) have been linked to Disneyland theme parks in Anaheim, California. While we have no confirmed cases in Santa Cruz County, due to the high number of cases within California, measles may be circulating undetected in our community, although we don't know how widely.

We want to reassure parents that there is no need to be alarmed. If your children have been vaccinated with two MMR's, they are protected from catching measles. However, a measles outbreak serves as an important reminder that everyone does need to make sure that they are either immune or have been vaccinated against measles.

Measles is highly contagious yet highly preventable through vaccinations. Measles can be prevented by the combination MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children get two doses: the first dose at 12–15 months of age, and the second dose at 4–6 years of age. Measles vaccination protects not just the person being vaccinated, but the community around them, including babies less than 12 months old who are too young to be vaccinated.

Adolescents and adults also need to be up to date on vaccinations. People born before 1957 are considered immune as they likely had measles as children and developed natural immunity. If you have any questions about your vaccination status, consult your doctor, who may elect to give you another MMR vaccination or perform a blood test to check for immunity to measles.

For more information on measles, please visit the CDC's measles information page at www.cdc.gov/measles.

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