



Press Release

Nash County Health Department
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For Immediate Release

Nash County Health Department Provides Follow-Up Guidance on Jan. 27 Possible Measles Exposure

NASH COUNTY, N.C. — The Nash County Health Department is continuing to monitor a previously announced potential measles exposure at the UNC Health Nash Emergency Department on Jan. 27.

The possible exposure occurred between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. on Jan. 27 when a child later diagnosed with measles visited the emergency department. The Nash County Health Department worked in collaboration with UNC Health Nash and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to identify and notify individuals who may have been directly exposed.

Individuals who were at the emergency department during the identified time frame should continue to monitor for symptoms through Feb. 17, which marks 21 days after the potential exposure.

“At this time, we have not identified any additional exposure sites, and the risk to the public remains low,” said Liz Lord, interim health director for the Nash County Health Department. “This update is simply a precaution to remind anyone who may have been present to monitor their health and contact us at 252-459-9819 with any concerns they have regarding possible exposure.”

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact and through the air. The virus can live for up to two hours in the air where the infected person was present. Symptoms of measles usually begin 7-14 days after exposure, but can appear up to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever (may spike to more than 104 degrees)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) two to three days after symptoms begin
 - A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin
- Measles can also cause complications including diarrhea, pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling of the brain), and suppression of the immune system

Anyone who develops symptoms should call ahead before visiting a doctor's office, urgent care, or emergency department to prevent possible spread to others.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends all unvaccinated individuals ages one year and older receive measles vaccination to protect themselves and those around them. While MMR vaccination is not routinely recommended for children under age 12 months, MMR vaccination can be safely given to children as young as six months if they are at higher risk, for example those living or spending time in an area with ongoing community transmission, or with planned international travel.

About the Nash County Health Department

The Nash County Health Department serves residents of Nash County, North Carolina by providing a valuable and diverse range of public health services focused on the early detection and treatment of health problems, disease prevention, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Through clinical care, prevention programs, health education, and community partnerships, the department works to protect public health, reduce the spread of disease, and support the overall well-being of individuals and families across the county.

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