



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services
Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary



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Contacts:

Meghan Sprager, Office of the Waukesha County Executive, 414.350.5858
Raquel Filmanowicz, City of Milwaukee Health Department, 414.397.1614
Stephanie Marquis, Department of Health and Family Services, 608.266.1683
Jennifer Stohler, Milwaukee/Waukesha Public Health Consortium, 414.324.1372

Second Confirmed Rubella Case

Health Officials continue to promote immunization

Waukesha, WIS. – Today the WI State Laboratory of Hygiene confirmed a 2nd case of rubella in Southeastern Wisconsin. This second case is an adult that lives in Waukesha County and works in the City of Milwaukee. Local health officials are working with the individual, the Milwaukee/Waukesha Public Health Consortium and the Department of Health and Family Services to limit the transmission of disease.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department is currently working with the Milwaukee employer and other potential exposure settings to assure appropriate risk communications to potential contacts to the case.

As with measles, the best way to protect against rubella is to get immunized. Children and adults that have not been vaccinated previously can do so at one of these upcoming clinics:

Waukesha County Clinic:

April 28 from 3–6 p.m.: Forest Park United Presbyterian Church, 2300 Sunnyslope Rd, New Berlin
Fee: \$7/vaccine dose (can be waived if necessary)

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Clinics:

City of Milwaukee Health Department will again be holding measles vaccination clinics on Saturday, April 26 from 10:00am-2:00pm at Southside Health Center, 1639 S 23rd Street; Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Road; and at its mobile immunization van which will be stationed at Lena's Food Market, 2322 W. Oak Street (intersection of 23rd Street and Fond du Lac Avenue). Immunizations are free and will be offered to both children and adults. For more information visit www.milwaukee.gov/health or call (414) 286-3616.

People that wish to be vaccinated are encouraged to bring their immunization records to the clinic. No child under 12 months of age will receive the vaccine, and a signature from parents or legal guardians is required for children > 12 months of age. Those living outside Waukesha County and the City of Milwaukee are asked to contact their local public health department to find out when regularly scheduled immunization clinics will be held.

The rubella vaccine is given in combination with measles and mumps vaccine (called MMR vaccine) and is recommended for all children at 12-15 months of age and at 4-6 years of age. The two doses of vaccine provide life-long immunity. Most people born before 1957 are most likely immune to measles and/or rubella by having acquired these infections naturally. For most adults born in or after 1957, health officials are recommending a single dose.

Rubella, also called German measles (or 3-day measles), is a vaccine preventable viral infection that is spread through the air by coughing, sneezing or talking. Rubella symptoms usually occur 12-23 days after exposure to the virus. In children, it usually begins with a rash that appears on the face and neck and lasts 2-3 days. Older children and adults may experience a low grade fever, swollen glands at the back of the neck, and an upper respiratory infection before the rash begins. People can spread disease a week before and after the rash starts. Rubella is most serious for pregnant females in

their first trimester. A baby born to a mother with rubella infection has up to a 90% chance of being stillborn or born with Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), which can include deafness, blindness, and mental retardation and heart defects. Infants with CRS can spread the virus for months after birth.

Further information will be forthcoming as available and warranted. For additional information on measles or rubella, go to: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/factsheets/>

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