

NEWS RELEASE

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Individual from Burleigh County Thought to have Measles Tests Negative
The North Dakota Department of Health Ends the Response to Measles
After Further Testing With CDC

BISMARCK, N.D. – On Thursday, September 6, 2018, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) was notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that subsequent testing found the individual with measles in Burleigh County to be negative. Therefore, the NDDoH has determined that the threat of measles for this specific situation to be over. Children and employees who are currently being excluded from school and other activities, may return to school tomorrow, September 7, 2018. Other individuals contacted by the NDDoH about a potential exposure no longer need to watch for symptoms of measles.

Initial test results on this individual were positive for measles. Based on symptoms and travel history, the individual was originally determined to be a case of measles. To protect the health of the public, notifications and prevention activities were initiated by the NDDoH. Per protocol, the NDDoH sends samples to the CDC for additional screening and confirmation. Laboratory tests can sometimes produce false positives; however, this is rare.

“Measles is one of the most contagious diseases in the world,” said Molly Howell, immunization program manager for the NDDoH. “We acted quickly and appropriately based on the testing and information that we had on hand at the time to prevent the spread of measles in the community. We appreciate the cooperation of this individual, schools and community members in response to this situation.”

Measles cases are occurring in the United States and around the World. All children are recommended to be vaccinated against measles at ages 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years. Measles is included in a combination vaccine with mumps and rubella (known as MMR vaccine). All adults born in 1957 or later should have at least one dose of MMR vaccine. All health care workers should have two doses of MMR vaccine.

For more information about measles or immunizations, contact the NDDoH at 701.328.2378 or visit our website at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize.