



For immediate release

Contact: Carol Schliesinger
Public Relations Manager/207-8172

As measles threat rises, we can keep Bexar County safe

SAN ANTONIO (Feb. 5, 2015) – The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) issues an update on Measles as well as a reminder about the guidelines for the MMR vaccine, used to prevent Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

In January 2015, Tarrant County identified an individual with Measles that had travelled internationally. We do not have any other cases in the state, but health officials are on high alert due to the disease's highly infectious nature. Measles is so contagious that 90 percent of the people without immunity, who are exposed to someone with Measles, will become infected with the disease. It is important for everyone to be aware that measles could reach Bexar County. Our best course of action to prevent the spread of Measles is vaccination.

The guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that people of all ages keep up to date with their vaccinations. The following summarizes the CDC guidelines for MMR vaccinations:

- Children should receive two doses MMR vaccine—the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age.

For individuals without evidence of immunity through shot records or blood tests:

- College and other adult-students, and health care personnel, need two appropriately-spaced doses (separated by at least 28 days).
- Adults born during 1957 or more recently need one or preferably two doses of MMR.
- For all U.S. residents older than six months who travel or intend to travel internationally, the MMR vaccine is needed prior to departure.
 - Infants six through 11 months old should receive 1 dose of MMR vaccine before departure.
 - Children 12 months of age or older should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days).
 - Teenagers and adults should have documentation of two appropriately-spaced doses of MMR vaccine.

Individuals should always consult their physician prior to receiving a vaccination.

San Antonio is a city on the rise for the new face of America—a diverse, progressive and globally competitive city with a solid vision for national and international economic development. The City of San Antonio maintains a strong financial position with a “AAA” general obligation bond rating from all three major rating agencies. In 2014, Forbes labeled San Antonio the “Best City in the Southwest” for adults ages 18-34 for its dynamic economy, employment opportunities and affordable living. As the seventh-largest city in the United States, San Antonio is experiencing solid economic growth in 21st century industries such as bioscience, aerospace, cybersecurity and healthcare, which contribute billions to the local economy. San Antonio has also positioned itself at the forefront of the New Energy Economy in the United States, committed to investing and creating employment opportunities in green industries. San Antonio continues to experience the addition of missions at its several military commands, further fostering a significant relationship spanning more than 200 years. Thirty-one million visitors come to San Antonio every year, generating more than \$13.4 billion annually and making the travel industry a vital asset to the city’s economic health. For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov.

#