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## Measles Identified in Tooele County

**TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH** – The Tooele County Health Department (TCHD) has confirmed that Tooele County has its first case of measles. The person confirmed to have measles is a Stansbury High School student who was exposed while attending a multi-district school event outside of Tooele County. A letter with notification and guidance had been sent to parents/guardians of the students involved to inform them of the possible exposure.

The Stansbury High School student confirmed to have measles did attend school while infectious and before symptoms began on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Parents of students possibly exposed to this student have been notified.

Measles is a highly contagious and serious viral illness. "The Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine has been shown for decades to be highly effective and safe when protecting against measles infection," says Dr. Grant Sunada, Tooele County Health Officer. "Getting vaccinated helps protect those who cannot receive the vaccine and are vulnerable. Please reach out to your healthcare provider or our Health Department staff to see if you are up to date on your vaccines. We are available to talk through your questions about the best ways to keep you and your family healthy and safe."

Tooele County Health Department encourages our community to:

***Verify measles vaccination:*** People who have received two doses of the MMR vaccine are very well protected from measles. If you or your child has not received the MMR vaccine or has only received 1 dose, we recommend you contact a pharmacist or doctor's office to discuss immunization as soon as possible. If you do not have a healthcare provider, contact the TCHD Community Health Offices at 435-277-2310 to discuss the MMR vaccine. Our staff are here to help answer questions so that you can make informed choices. We encourage respect for everyone when discussing health decisions for you or your loved ones and families.

***Monitor for measles symptoms:*** Measles symptoms begin up to 21 days after exposure. Symptoms include mild

to moderate fever with a cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. A few days later, the fever spikes, typically 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, and is followed by a blotchy rash that could appear red on light skin and darker or purple on dark skin. The rash usually appears first on the face along the hairline and behind the ears. The rash rapidly spreads downward to the rest of the body.

Anyone who thinks they have measles or have been exposed to someone with measles should **stay home and call their health care provider before seeking care** so the provider can plan to see you without exposing others.

For the most up to date information on the state of the measles outbreak in Utah please visit <https://epi.utah.gov/measles-response/>

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