



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Measles Ruled Out in Durham County

*Ensure you are up-to-date with your measles vaccination, if not, get vaccinated.*

**DURHAM, N.C.** – The Durham County Department of Public Health received the final test results for the possible measles case reported from the North Carolina Division of Public Health this afternoon. The results were for an individual residing in Durham County. Additional testing from the national reference laboratory ruled out measles as the cause of the patient's illness.

Measles can present in individuals with a history of international or domestic travel to areas where there are reported measles transmission. Initial symptoms can present 8-12 days after an exposure and include cough, runny nose, and red or watery eyes. This is followed by high fever and a rash that starts on the head and spreads to the rest of the body. Other infections can present with similar symptoms. Therefore, confirmation of measles involves testing for both the virus and antibodies.

Measles is highly contagious among communities with a high proportion of unvaccinated persons. In accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, measures to prevent infection should not be delayed while waiting for confirmation of possible cases because of the current outbreak in the United States that is already affecting 28 states.

The Durham County Department of Public Health, North Carolina Division of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly encourage all residents to ensure they are up to date on all vaccines, especially the measles vaccine. One dose of measles vaccine is about 93% effective at preventing measles if exposed to the virus. Two doses are about 97% effective. Measles vaccine does not cause measles.

Vaccine recommendations for adult vaccine are as follows:

- One dose of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) for those born after 1957;
- Two doses of MMR for certain adults at high risk (unless they have other evidence of measles immunity) as listed below:
  - Students at post-high school educational institutions
  - Healthcare personnel
  - International travelers

It is recommended that infants and children be vaccinated at 12 months and 4 years of age. Residents can get more information about measles by visiting <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/diseases/rubeola.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

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