**News Media Release**

For More Information:

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**Cooper County Public Health Center confirms measles case**

 The Cooper County Public Health Center is issuing an urgent warning regarding the confirmation of a case of measles in Cooper County, Missouri. This recent development has prompted health officials to take immediate action to protect public health. Measles is a highly contagious viral infection that can lead to serious complications, especially in young children, pregnant women, and individuals with weakened immune systems. Symptoms typically include high fever, cough, runny nose, and a characteristic rash. The virus spreads through respiratory droplets and can remain infectious in the air and on surfaces for several hours.

Administrator Scott Clardy said, “It is important for families to understand that if an unvaccinated child is exposed to measles, they will be restricted from attending school or childcare facilities for at least three weeks. We urge all the parents and guardians to ensure your children have been appropriately vaccinated. Call Cooper County Public Health Center at 660-882-2626 to make an appointment ASAP to keep your children from getting sick with measles.”

The Cooper County Public Health Center urges residents to take the following precautions:

**Vaccination:** Ensure that you and your family members are up to date on measles vaccinations. The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is highly effective in preventing measles infection. If you are unsure about your vaccination status or need to schedule a vaccination, contact your healthcare provider or the Cooper County Public Health Department for assistance.

**Stay Informed**: Stay updated on the latest developments and recommendations from local health authorities regarding the measles outbreak. Regularly check the Cooper County Public Health Department website and official social media channels for updates.

**Practice Good Hygiene:** Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing, using the restroom, or touching commonly shared surfaces. Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.

**Be Vigilant:** Be vigilant for symptoms of measles, especially if you or your family members have been in close contact with individuals who are infected or have recently traveled to areas with known measles outbreaks. If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, and rash, seek medical attention immediately and inform your healthcare provider of your symptoms and possible exposure to measles.

**Stay Home if Sick:** If you or your child is experiencing symptoms of measles, stay home from work, school, or other public gatherings to prevent the spread of the virus to others. Follow the guidance of healthcare professionals and public health authorities regarding isolation and quarantine protocols.

The Cooper County Public Health Department is working closely with state and local partners to monitor the measles outbreak and implement necessary control measures to limit the spread of the virus within our community. We urge residents to remain vigilant, take proactive steps to protect themselves and their families, and stay informed through credible sources of information.