

**BROWN COUNTY  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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DEPARTMENT**

**ONEIDA  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CENTER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AGAINST MEASLES**

Date: May 15, 2019

(Brown County, Wis.) - The Brown County Health & Human Services - Public Health Division, De Pere Health Department, and Oneida Community Health Center are reminding people to take precautions to help stop the spread of measles.

This reminder comes after 839 individual cases of measles from January 1 to May 10, 2019 have been confirmed in 23 states. This is the highest level in the United States in 25 years and since the disease was declared eliminated in 2000.

Symptoms of measles generally appear 7 to 14 days after a person is infected. Early symptoms may include: runny nose, cough, high fever (may be greater than 104 F), or red, watery eyes, accompanied by a rash that typically begins at the hairline and spreads downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet. There is no specific medical treatment for measles. Measles is serious and can lead to life threatening complications. 1 in 4 people who get measles will be hospitalized.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that can easily spread from person to person. It is spread by an infected person coughing or sneezing. Measles virus can stay in the air for up to 2 hours after an infected person has been in a room. Measles is so contagious that if 1 person is infected with it, 9 out of 10 people will also get sick if they are not protected.

The best way to protect yourself and your family against measles is the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed for full protection. The first dose should be given at age 12 through 15 months of age, the second dose at age 4 through 6 years of age. Teens and adults should also be up to date on their vaccinations. If unsure about your vaccination status, check the Wisconsin Immunization Registry online. Be sure to talk with your health care provider about being vaccinated against measles.

In response to the widespread outbreaks of measles happening in the United States and abroad, Public Health has developed strategies to protect the health of our community. These strategies include educating hospital systems and other community partners, doing a community awareness campaign at Austin Straubel Airport, and much more.

For more information on measles, visit

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/measles.htm> or

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>.

<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm> (Wisconsin Immunization Registry)

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