

NEWS 05/04/2018

# Three Cases Of Measles Confirmed In Putnam, More May Have Been Exposed



Joe Lombardi

**MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE**

- High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin



**Measles Can Be Serious**

 <p>About 1 out of 4 people who get measles will be hospitalized.</p>	 <p>1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis), which may lead to brain damage.</p>	 <p>1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.</p>
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A look at measles symptoms. Photo Credit: CDC

The Putnam County Department of Health has confirmed three positive cases of measles and said others may have been exposed earlier this week.

Two are Putnam residents and the third lives in Connecticut, said Susan Hoffner, health educator of the Putnam County Department of Health. The hometowns of the three were not released.

All the cases have been isolated to avoid spreading the disease further. Measles is a serious, highly contagious disease that can be spread through the air by coughing or sneezing. In rare cases it can be deadly.

“Before these individuals were isolated, they may have exposed other people,” explains interim Health Commissioner Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD, “and we are working with local partners to identify all possible contacts.”

Anyone who was in the Subway restaurant, 3101 Route 22 in Patterson, on Sunday April 29, between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., or in DeCicco & Sons in Brewster at 50 Independent Way (at Route 312 and 184) on May 1 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., may have been exposed.

They should call the Putnam County Department of Health as soon as possible to understand their possible risk and what action to take. Public health nurses will be available by calling at 845-808-1390.

Those individuals who were born before 1957, or who have had measles disease or who have been vaccinated with MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) may still retain full or partial immunity.

“Measles symptoms begin with fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat,” Nesheiwat said. “It is followed by a rash that spreads over the body. If anyone has these symptoms, call the doctor or emergency room first. Do not go directly to a medical facility. Isolation procedures need to begin immediately upon arrival.”

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