**Sample measles press release**

Date:

Contact:

**Public health officials report measles case; recommend vaccine for children age 1 and older.**

(YourTown) XXX County reports a confirmed case of measles. County and state public health officials recommend unvaccinated individuals 1 year and older receive a measles vaccination to protect themselves and those around them.

“Measles is an acute, highly contagious viral disease. A small number of cases are capable of quickly producing epidemics,” says XXX XXX, health officer for XXX County. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough and rash. Although measles is usually considered a childhood disease, it can be contracted at any age. Generally, preschool children, adolescents, young adults and inadequately immunized individuals comprise the majority of measles cases in the United States. There is no specific treatment for measles.

“The best way to protect yourself and your family against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases is by immunization,” XXX says. Children should receive their first dose of measles vaccine between 12 and 15 months of age; another dose at 4-6 years of age. Measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine is generally first given at 12 months of age in the United States, but is sometimes recommended for children as young as 6 months of age who are traveling outside the United States or could be infected in an outbreak.

People who were at (XXX location) between (XXX dates and times) may have been exposed to measles. We encourage anyone who may have been exposed to check whether you and your family have been vaccinated to protect against measles.

In 2014, the U.S. has seen the highest number of measles cases in 20 years. In Oregon, two doses of measles vaccination have been required for school children since 1998. Despite repeated introduction of measles into Oregon, we have seen no more than 14 cases in any given year since 1991. As long as vaccination rates remain high, the risk to Oregonians is low. Immunization protects the entire community.

For more information on measles, visit[**www.healthoregon.org**](http://www.healthoregon.org) or [**www.cdc.gov/measles**](http://www.cdc.gov/measles)**.** To obtain a measles vaccination, call your health care provider, local health department or SAFENET (211).