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UPDATE ON CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT MUMPS OUTBREAK

As of 4:00 p.m. today, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has received reports of 31 cases of confirmed, probable or suspect mumps in Milwaukee County. This number includes several cases at local colleges and universities, and other educational settings, as well as in the community at large. These cases include children and adults. Age ranges of cases with complete information are 3 to 84 years. Additional cases are expected in the coming weeks as mumps continues to spread in the community.

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that is spread through respiratory droplets (coughing, sneezing, talking) upon contact with infected individuals, and from saliva-contaminated surfaces. Symptoms can include swelling of the salivary glands in the cheek and jaw areas, a low grade fever, muscle pain and headache. Severe complications for a fraction of infected persons include testicular tenderness and inflammation, miscarriages in pregnant women, deafness, encephalitis and meningitis (swelling of the linings of the brain and spinal cord, respectively).

Mumps can affect any person at any age. Four criteria determine whether an individual is likely to be immune in an outbreak setting:

- Two (2) MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccinations
- One MMR vaccination and being born before 1957
- History of mumps disease
- A blood test (“titer”) showing immunity to mumps

The MHD response strategy is focused on recommending vaccination to all susceptible individuals (those not meeting the above criteria) in colleges, universities, elementary and secondary schools, day care centers, and for health care workers. In addition, the MHD is strongly recommending that persons with symptoms of mumps stay home from work and school for a period of nine (9) days from the initial onset of illness. These two measures will slow and limit the spread of mumps in the above settings as well as in the community.

Susceptible persons should seek a MMR vaccination from their primary health care provider or student health centers on campus, if vaccination clinics have been established. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had reported that there is an ample supply of vaccine available to address the needs of outbreaks regionally and nationally.

The MHD will continue to update its automated hotline at 414.286.3616 and website at www.milwaukee.gov/mumps as new information becomes available.

Persons outside of Milwaukee County should contact their local public health agency to report mumps cases and to get more information on vaccination within their community.

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