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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

5 Cases of Measles Confirmed

(VENTURA COUNTY, Calif.) - Since mid-December, the State of California has seen 59 cases of measles. Ventura County has now reported 5 of those cases. One of our measles cases had reason to be in Citi Bank in Camarillo, at 430 Arneill Road for much of the day from Monday, January 12 through Wednesday, January 14, 2015. Any person who entered the main lobby of the bank on any of those days who is not immune to the measles virus has some potential risk of acquiring measles. Most people have immunity to measles. "Probably 95% of the population is immune to measles because they had 2 MMRs, their childhood measles shots," said Dr. Robert Levin, Health Officer for Ventura County.

A 2-shot series starting on or after the first birthday is protective. At this time, 91.6% of all children entering kindergarten in Ventura County have had 2 MMR shots and are thus immune to catching the disease. There are schools in the county with a particularly low rate of MMR immunization. One private school on the east end of the county has a measles immunization rate of 67%. Most public schools in Oxnard, on the other hand, have a measles immunization rate of 100%

The Communicable Diseases division of the Ventura County Public Health, a department of the Ventura County Health Care Agency, says that anyone who was in the bank on one of those three days who develops symptoms of measles should call their physician, tell them they may have been exposed to measles, and ask to come in to the office for a measles titer. Tell the receptionist before your arrival that you should be put directly into a patient room to have your blood drawn so that you won't expose other patients waiting to be seen in the waiting room.

The symptoms of measles include cough, runny nose, reddened eyes, fever, a rash and often, tiny sores in the mouth. A person with measles may only have a few of these symptoms. "Most people with measles feel quite sick, as sick as someone feels with the flu," said Dr. Levin. Measles is a very contagious disease and entirely preventable. While not as deadly as Ebola, for instance, it is 5 to 15 times more contagious. People who contract measles are contagious for 4 days before they develop the rash and for 4 more days after they develop the rash.



Ventura County Public Health

A Division of the Ventura County Health Care Agency

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For those who were in Citi Bank in Camarillo on the days referenced, they are at risk of developing measles for up to 21 days following exposure. For example, someone who was in the bank on Wednesday the 14th of January is at risk of developing measles until February 4th.

For information on a Public Health clinic near you if you are in need of immunizations, please call: 805-981-5221; for a Ventura County Health Care Agency Ambulatory Care clinic near you, please call: 805-677-5110.

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