

MEDIA ADVISORY

Measles Vaccine Availability

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For Immediate Release:

Kern County: Due to the ongoing measles outbreak throughout California, the Kern County Public Health Officer, Claudia Jonah, M.D., highly recommends that all persons born after 1957, receive two doses of a measles-containing vaccine such as MMR or MMRV.

Because measles disease was common in the U.S. and abroad before 1957, adults born prior to that year are considered likely to have had the measles disease, so it is therefore not recommended by the CDC for these individuals to receive the vaccine. If individuals in this category are concerned they may be at risk, they should consult with their physician and request a measles titer be drawn to establish immunity. We are particularly concerned about our adult population born after 1957 who may not have received two doses of measles-containing vaccine. In the current California outbreak, as of February 4, 2015, 60% of the cases are 20 years of age and older who may have only received one dose of vaccine while school-aged. Individuals who are unsure if they have received two doses are encouraged to check their vaccination status and consider vaccination at this time.

For those who find themselves in need of vaccination, they are encouraged to check with their medical provider, a local pharmacy or with a Public Health Services Department clinic where the vaccine is available at a low-cost, based on eligibility guidelines. Some insurance plans are also accepted at the Public Health Clinic. For more information about Public Health Services Department's accepted insurance plans, please call (661) 321-3000.