

4/28/99
DJK

Clark County Health District
625 Shadow Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 385-1291

News Release

Contact: Jennifer Sizemore
(702) 383-1225
Dr. Rose Bell
(702) 383-1378

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District Confirms Case of Rubella

(Las Vegas, Nev. – April 28, 1999) – The Clark County Health District (CCHD) has confirmed a case of rubella (German measles) in a Las Vegas resident. In an effort to prevent additional cases public health nurses will administer the rubella vaccine to coworkers and close contacts of the infected person who do not have a record of prior immunizations for this viral rash illness.

Symptoms of rubella may include a fine pink or red rash, a temperature greater than 99 degrees, joint pain, swelling and tenderness of the lymph glands, and conjunctivitis (red, watery eyes). Although rubella is generally a mild illness it has serious consequences for women who become infected during the early stages of pregnancy as it can result in miscarriages, stillbirths and fetal anomalies.

Up to 90 percent of infants born to mothers infected with rubella in the first trimester will develop congenital rubella syndrome (CRS). This condition can lead to developmental abnormalities such as cardiac and ocular lesions, deafness, mental retardation and conditions such as encephalitis and hepatitis. Infants with the virus may be contagious for extended periods of time.

(more)

Persons who are experiencing a low-grade fever or rash, particularly those who have recently traveled to Mexico, should seek a medical opinion. Additionally, women who are pregnant and have been exposed to rubella should contact their physician. Suspected cases of rubella should be reported to the CCHD Office of Epidemiology at (702) 383-1378.

Mumps/Measles/Rubella (MMR) is available at all CCHD locations for children and adults. Persons who have not been immunized for rubella should contact the Health District at 383-1351 for the nearest location.

####