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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vaccine-Preventable Illness Discovered in Clark County

(Las Vegas, Nev. – June 7, 2000) – Six confirmed cases of measles have been reported to the Clark County Health District’s (CCHD) Office of Epidemiology since April. Cases of measles are rare, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends increased surveillance when one case is identified in a community. Local health officials are urging parents to ensure that their children are appropriately immunized against the disease. Children and adults who have not received the measles vaccination can be immunized at any Health District location.

Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer for CCHD, states, “Complications from the virus can be serious and one adult who contracted measles did require hospitalization. Physicians within Clark County have been alerted in order to ensure proper identification of the illness and accurate reporting to our office.”

Measles, or rubeola, is an acute, highly contagious viral rash illness. It is spread by direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people, or by airborne transmission. Initially, an infected person may have a runny nose, cough and slight fever. The eyes may become red and sensitive to light while the fever consistently rises to 101 degrees Fahrenheit

(more)

or greater. The red, blotchy rash usually appears on the third to seventh day. The rash begins on the face and then spreads over the entire body, lasting four to seven days.

Symptoms usually appear in 10-12 days, although they may occur as early as eight, or as late as 13 days after exposure.

For more information regarding immunization services, contact the CCHD's Immunization Clinic at 383-1357. Suspected cases of measles should be reported to the Health District's Office of Epidemiology at 383-1378.

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