

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 12, 2015

Contact: Karrey Britt
Communications Coordinator
Office: (785) 856-7362

Health Department to provide community clinics for measles vaccination

(Lawrence, KS) – The United States is experiencing a large, multi-state outbreak of measles. Between Jan. 1 and Feb. 6, 121 people from 17 states, including Nebraska and Colorado, were reported to have measles. No cases have been reported in Kansas.

Measles is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus and it is highly contagious. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles starts with a fever. Soon after, it causes a cough, runny nose and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny, red spots breaks out. It starts at the head and spreads to the rest of the body. The rash can last for a week, and coughing can last for 10 days. The disease can cause serious health complications and even death.

Dr. Thomas Marcellino, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department health officer, encourages residents to check their immunity for measles by looking at their immunization records or getting a blood test through their health care provider.

If residents do not know their status and do not want to pay for a blood test, they should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations below:

- **Children** should receive two doses of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine. They should receive the first dose when they are 12 to 15 months old and the second dose when they 4 to 6 years old.
- **Adults**
 - born before 1957 are considered immune to measles and do not need to receive vaccine.
 - born during or after 1957 should have documentation of at least one dose of MMR or evidence of measles immunity. If not, a dose is recommended.
 - attending college or other post-high school educational institutions, health care workers and international travelers should have two doses of MMR on record or evidence of immunity. If not, two doses are recommended.

“The best way to keep from getting measles is to be vaccinated,” Marcellino said.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department offers the MMR vaccine on a walk-in basis in the clinic, 200 Maine St. The Health Department accepts all insurance. The Health Department does not provide blood tests to check measles immunity.

The Health Department also will be providing community clinics for people who want to receive the MMR vaccine. Residents should bring their health insurance information if they have insurance. The clinics will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

- **Feb. 18** — Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St., meeting room B., Lawrence.
- **Feb. 24** — Baldwin City Recreation Office, 705 High St., Baldwin City.
- **Feb. 26** — Eudora Community Recreation Center, 1630 Elm St., Eudora.
- **March 3** — Lecompton United Methodist Church, 402 Elmore St., Lecompton.

For more information about measles or the measles vaccine, call the Health Department at 785-843-0721 or visit ldchealth.org.