

Alaska Public Health Advisory

Suspected Measles Case on Cruise Ship – Exposure to Alaskans Unlikely

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On September 11, 2014, the Alaska Section of Epidemiology was notified by the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Anchorage Quarantine Station of a suspected measles (rubeola) case associated with the cruise industry. An adult crew member had recent contact with a confirmed measles case abroad, and subsequently developed classic clinical symptoms of measles on September 9 while onboard a ship in Alaska waters.

The patient had international and domestic air travel as well as cruise travel while infectious. CDC is conducting airline contact investigations, and alerting states who had individuals who might be at risk of infection. All cruise passengers will be informed of possible exposure directly while on board the ship.

This incident presents no direct risk to any Alaska communities at this time. The affected crew member did not disembark in Alaska, and the timing of illness is such that any individuals who came into contact with the patient onboard the ship could not have developed symptoms or spread the disease while in Alaska, if they disembarked.

Measles is a condition immediately reportable to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology; call (907) 269-8000 or afterhours, 1-800-478-0084, www.epi.Alaska.gov .

More information about measles is available on-line: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

Vaccination is the most effective means of preventing measles.