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**CDC HEALTH ADVISORY**

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**High Number of Reported Measles Cases in the U.S. in 2011—Linked to Outbreaks Abroad**

**Summary and Background**

The United States is experiencing a high number of reported measles cases in 2011, many of which were acquired during international travel. From January 1 through June 17 this year, 156 confirmed cases of measles were reported to CDC. This is the highest reported number since 1996. Most cases (136) were associated with importations from measles-endemic countries or countries where large outbreaks are occurring. The imported cases involved unvaccinated U.S. residents who recently traveled abroad, unvaccinated visitors to the United States, and people linked to these imported cases. To date, 12 outbreaks (3 or more linked cases) have occurred, accounting for 47% of the 156 cases. Of the total case-patients, 133 (85%) were unvaccinated or had undocumented vaccination status. Of the 139 case-patients who were U.S. residents, 86 (62%) were unvaccinated, 30 (22%) had undocumented vaccination status, 11 (8%) had received 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, 11 (8%) had received 2 doses, and 1 (1%) had received 3 (documented) doses.

Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000 due to our high 2-dose measles vaccine coverage, but it is still endemic or large outbreaks are occurring in countries in Europe (including France, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Switzerland), Africa, and Asia (including India). The increase in measles cases and outbreaks in the United States this year underscores the ongoing risk of importations, the need for high measles vaccine coverage, and the importance of prompt and appropriate public health response to measles cases and outbreaks.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness that is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. After an infected person leaves a location, the virus remains contagious for up to 2 hours on surfaces and in the air. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, and death.

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## County of Erie

**HEALTH ADVISORY #283**

**JUNE 16, 2011**

### **Increase in Reported Cases of Pertussis**

#### BACKGROUND

Healthcare providers and schools throughout Erie County are reporting an increase in pertussis cases. Healthcare providers and school officials, in cooperation with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), have provided treatment and control recommendations for cases of pertussis and their contacts.

#### CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION

Pertussis is a highly communicable, vaccine-preventable disease that lasts for many weeks and is typically manifested in children with paroxysmal spasms of severe coughing, whooping, and posttussive vomiting. The attack rate for pertussis is between 70% and 100% among susceptible household contacts.

Transmission occurs by direct or airborne contact with respiratory droplets, or by direct contact with objects contaminated with respiratory secretions from infectious individuals. The period of communicability is from the onset of symptoms to 21 days after the onset of cough.

Major complications are most common among infants and young children and include hypoxia, apnea, pneumonia, seizures, encephalopathy, and malnutrition. Young children can die from pertussis and preliminary data from 2010 shows that 22 of 26 pertussis related deaths in the United States were in children younger than 1 year old. Additionally, 2 infant deaths from pertussis in NYS occurred in April 2011 in babies under the age of 2 months. Most deaths occur among unvaccinated children or children too young to be vaccinated.