Measles Outbreaks in U.S. and Neighboring States: Prevea Health Encourages All to Check Measles Vaccination Status, Receive Vaccination if Necessary

Green Bay – As of May 31, 2019, 981 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 26 states since Jan. 1, 2019. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

In light of this development, and with confirmed measles cases in the neighboring states of Iowa, Illinois and Michigan, Prevea Health is taking proactive measures to ensure the health of all communities should the disease present in Wisconsin. Vaccination is the best way to prevent from contracting measles. Therefore, Prevea Health is encouraging everyone to check their measles vaccination status and to receive measles vaccination if necessary.

A person may be able to confirm their measles vaccination status by:
- Checking personal vaccine records
- Visiting the Wisconsin Immunization Registry at www.dhfswir.org
- Contacting their health care provider
- Prevea patients can also check our online patient portal, MyPrevea, for vaccination records

If a person is unable to locate their records or check their vaccination status, and remains unsure about their immunity to measles, the CDC and Prevea Health recommend those persons receive a measles vaccination. The measles vaccine is referred to as the MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccine.

A person is presumed protected against measles if any of the following are true:
- They have received two doses of live measles-containing vaccine (MMR vaccine)
- They were born before 1957 (*this does not apply if you are a healthcare worker)
- They have had laboratory confirmation of measles disease
- They have had a blood test that shows they are immune to measles

Measles is highly contagious. Nine out of 10 unprotected persons exposed to an infected person will develop measles. It is important to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of measles, which include:
- Runny nose
- High fever (may be greater than 104F)
- Tiredness
- Cough
- Red, watery eyes or conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Red rash with raised bumps that start at the hairline and move to the arms and legs 3-5 days after symptoms begin

If someone suspects they have measles or may have been exposed to measles, it is important they first call their primary care provider’s office, or their local clinic or emergency room to obtain direction on the next appropriate steps. This will help to prevent the potential spread of the suspected disease to others who may be present at their doctor’s office, clinic or emergency department.

For answers to frequently-asked-questions about measles and measles vaccination, please visit: www.prevea.com/Your-Wellness/Resources/Frequently-Asked-Questions-About-Measles

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**About Prevea Health**

Founded in Green Bay, Wis. in 1996, Prevea Health is a health care organization that provides high-quality, primary and specialty health care in 80+ locations across Northern, Eastern and Western Wisconsin in clinic and hospital settings. It is partnered with six Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals across Wisconsin to provide patients a system of highly-coordinated care, close to home: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls; HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire; and HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls. For more information, visit: www.prevea.com