BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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| Baltimore City Health Department  1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202 |

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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | **CONTACT** |
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| ***Baltimore City and County Health Departments Investigating Possible Measles Case***  *Officials currently investigating isolated potential case* | |
| **BALTIMORE, Md. (August 7, 2015)**— Today Health Commissioner Dr, Leana Wen announced that Baltimore County and Baltimore City Health Departments are currently investigating a possible, isolated case of measles in a Baltimore County resident who was seen for care at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore City. Upon recognition of a possible measles case, Sinai Hospital staff acted quickly and appropriately to reduce exposures.  The patient is an unvaccinated child currently at home in isolation. The patient’s initial evaluation is suggestive of measles, but further tests remain ongoing. The patient is not severely ill, or hospitalized, and expected to fully recover.  Baltimore City Health Department is working closely with the Baltimore County Health Department, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Sinai Hospital, and the Centers for Disease Control to determine the specifics of the case as well as to investigate potential contacts.  “This may be a false alarm and the patient may not have measles,” said Leana Wen, M.D., Baltimore City Health Commissioner. “However, measles is highly contagious, and out of an abundance of caution, we are treating this as a suspected measles case and taking every necessary precaution to ensure the health and safety of Baltimore residents.”  There has not been a documented case of measles in Baltimore City in the last decade. In January 2015, a possible case of measles in Baltimore City was ultimately determined to be negative. At the time, BCHD convened leading area pediatricians in the consensus [Baltimore Statement on the Importance of Childhood Vaccinations](http://health.baltimorecity.gov/current-hot-health-issues/baltimore-statement-childhood-vaccinations). Baltimore has a high city-wide vaccination rate, with nearly 99 percent of public school children vaccinated.  The best protection against measles is measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. MMR vaccine provides long-lasting protection against all strains of measles.  If your child is in need of immunizations, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's annual Back to School Rally will offer free immunizations. The city-wide event will be held on Saturday, August 8, at the War Memorial Plaza from 12:00 to 3:00 pm.  For more information about measles, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html> | |
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