



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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08-20

**DOH WARNS OF POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO MEASLES AT  
CHINESE NEW YEAR PARTY**

**HONOLULU** – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) has learned that persons who attended a Chinese New Year Party on Saturday evening, February 9, 2008 at Golden Palace Seafood Restaurant at 111 N. King Street, may have been exposed to measles.

DOH is advising any persons who attended the dinner party and who develop a fever and cough or runny nose between now and February 27, 2008 should stay at home and immediately consult their physician. They should mention their possible contact with measles when they call.

“Most people in Hawaii are immune to measles either through vaccination or having had measles in the past, so outbreaks of measles are rare. Still, because not everyone is immune and the disease is so infectious, it is possible that someone at the party may become infected with measles,” State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Effler stated. “We are issuing this public notice to quickly get this information to party attendees.”

The dinner party, attended by 210 individuals, was hosted by C.Q. Yee Hop and Company and organized by Kwai and Randy Chun. The ill guest did not know she could be spreading measles when she attended the party because she had not yet seen a doctor. Subsequent to the party, the diagnosis of measles was confirmed and reported to the public.

Persons who attended the party and are not sure if they are already immune to measles should contact their health care provider. Individuals are considered immune to measles if they were born prior to 1957, have two documented measles vaccinations, or laboratory evidence of immunity or documentation of physician-diagnosed measles.

All children who have not been vaccinated against measles should be considered at risk of getting measles. First measles vaccination is usually administered at age 12-15 months.

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection characterized by fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and a rash. Complications of measles can include pneumonia, ear infection, and occasionally encephalitis (i.e., inflammation of the brain). It is spread by direct contact with small respiratory droplets that are dispersed when an ill person coughs, sneezes or speaks.

Measles is not spread through food, and there is no ongoing risk of measles from eating at the restaurant, apart from an exposure to the ill guest on February 9.

Dinner attendees who have questions about measles can call the Disease Investigation Branch of the Hawaii State Department of Health at (808) 586-4586.

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