Seneca County Health Department

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Seneca County Health Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Measles Continues to Spread in Seneca County

WATERLOO, NY – As of November 18, 2026, Seneca County has confirmed 83 cases of measles with 14 of those cases requiring hospitalization, and measles is continuing to circulate in Seneca and surrounding counties. Seneca County Public Health Director, Scott King, would like to remind the public that getting the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your family. Two doses are 97% effective at preventing measles.

The New York State Department of Health is now recommending an early dose of the MMR vaccine for infants 6-11 months old who live in or visit an area with a measles outbreak or are traveling internationally. This vaccine will provide early protection; however, it does not count toward the routine two-dose series required for school attendance.

Measles signs and symptoms usually appear between 7 and 14 days after exposure but may take as long as 21 days and include high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. Additionally, a distinctive red, blotchy rash is typical when someone contracts measles. The rash usually starts on the face and then spreads downwards and outwards about 3 to 5 days after initial symptoms begin.

If you are showing signs and symptoms of measles, stay home and contact your doctor. If you need to seek medical care, it is important to call ahead before arriving at the emergency room or urgent care.

The Seneca County Health Department offers the measles vaccination (MMR) to residents regardless of insurance status. Please call (315) 539-1920 to schedule an appointment or visit our website at www.senecacountyhealthny.gov