Measles Preparedness for Cornell Employees

Dear Colleagues,

You may be aware of the numerous measles outbreaks that have occurred this year, including those in the lower Hudson Valley and parts of New York City.

Measles is highly contagious. Even one case at Cornell would constitute an outbreak and prompt a public health response. While no cases have been identified in the Ithaca area, we are working with the Tompkins County Health Department to ensure that our campus remains safe and that we are prepared to respond in the event of an outbreak. Please note that should an outbreak occur on campus, exposed individuals without immunization records could be subject to county-mandated quarantines or exclusions that could impact one’s ability to remain on, or return to, campus until such restrictions are lifted.

The best way to protect yourself and others around you is to be aware of your measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination status. You most likely received the MMR vaccine when you were a child; however, if you are unsure of your vaccination history or know that you are not up to date, we encourage you to be proactive and do one of the following:

- obtain documentation proving that you previously received the MMR vaccine;
- contact your primary care provider to request a titer test (a blood test to determine if you are immune) or MMR vaccination; or
- go to myCornellHealth to schedule a visit with Occupational Medicine to receive the MMR vaccination.

Getting vaccinated at Cornell Health: Cornell will provide a single-dose of the MMR vaccine through Cornell Health Occupational Medicine at no cost to employees. Employees wishing to receive the measles vaccination at Cornell Health may schedule an appointment by logging in to myCornellHealth (access with your Cornell NetID, enter your birthday, select “Appointments” and then “Occupational Medicine”). Employees may also call 607-255-6960 to schedule an appointment.

If you have questions or concerns or to find out more about measles and the MMR vaccine, please review the resources listed below or call your primary care provider.

- Cornell Health Measles FAQ
- Tompkins County Health Department Measles Factsheet
- New York State Health Department Measles Information
- CDC Measles Information and MMR Vaccination

A proactive approach can help reduce our campus community’s risk from exposure.

Sincerely,

Kent W. Bullis, M.D.
Executive Director, Cornell Health