



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: **Laura Bauman**, Epidemiologist, Washtenaw County Public Health Department  
E-mail: [baumanl@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:baumanl@ewashtenaw.org)  
Phone: (734) 544-6763

**Gray R. Reynolds**, Communications Manager/PIO, Washtenaw County Public Health Department  
E-mail: [reynoldsg@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:reynoldsg@ewashtenaw.org)  
Phone: (734) 544-3091

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT RELEASES FINAL MEASLES TEST RESULTS CDC Rules Out Measles in Ann Arbor Elementary School Cases

YPSILANTI, Mich., November 2, 2007—Washtenaw County Public Health Department officials today announced that the final round of confirmatory testing performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that measles was not the cause of a rash illness suffered by nine Ann Arbor elementary school students during the month of October. The CDC report did not identify any other cause for the rash but officials at the Health Department said they have asked the CDC to test the serum samples again for other infections whose rash and fever can mimic the symptoms caused by measles.

Health Department personnel communicated test results to the parents of affected students on Thursday afternoon and then contacted Ann Arbor Public School District officials with the CDC's findings. No children are currently being excluded at Burns Park, Angell or Wines elementary schools.

The CDC has been retesting serum samples and performing tests on viral throat swabs from several children at Burns Park, Angell and Wines elementary schools during the past three weeks, including a sample from an Angell elementary student that a local laboratory earlier said tested positive for measles. The CDC reported that all samples, including the Angell student's sample, tested negative for measles.

“These results are good news for the community because they confirm that no children were infected by measles,” said Dr. Stan Reedy, Medical Director of the Washtenaw County Public Health Department. “It also means that the medical and public health response to the potential threat of measles in our public school system has ended, having closely followed the framework and guidelines established for investigating suspect and confirmed serious communicable diseases. While we are still uncertain as to exactly what caused these rash illnesses, we are certain that it wasn't measles,” he said.

Fax: (734) 544-6706  
Communicable Disease

Fax: (734) 544-6704  
Administration

Fax: (734) 544-6705  
Public Health

HEARING IMPAIRED: (734) 994-1733



WEB ADDRESSES: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org>

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>

“In this situation, the Public Health Department’s process did exactly what it was designed to do—protect individuals from potential illness while we investigated a plausible report of a highly contagious disease circulating in the community,” Reedy said. “Imported cases of measles do continue to occur in the United States and we must treat each credible report seriously and react accordingly. Doing so enables us to be even better prepared when these kinds of situations occur in the future.”

“We intend to conduct a very thorough review of exactly how this situation unfolded,” said Laura Bauman, Epidemiologist for the Washtenaw County Public Health Department. “We will definitely debrief with school officials, local clinicians, laboratory personnel, Michigan Department of Community Health representatives and the CDC to discuss current protocol for measles investigation. We have been frustrated by the unanticipated delays in obtaining timely and accurate lab results during our investigation and we will be seeking out ways to support more efficient and timely decision-making,” she said. “While we’re pleased with the effort everyone involved has expended toward responding to this threat, there’s always room for improvement.”

For more information about the Ann Arbor Public School system, visit:

[http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/aaps.home/aaps\\_home](http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/aaps.home/aaps_home)

or contact:

**Liz Margolis**, Director of Communications, Ann Arbor Public Schools, at: (734) 994-2236.

For a County Health Department fact sheet with more information about measles, visit:

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public\\_health/phcontent/cd\\_fact\\_sheets/measles.pdf](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/phcontent/cd_fact_sheets/measles.pdf)

For general information about measles from the CDC, visit:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_measles.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_measles.htm)

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