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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT RELEASES MEASLES TEST RESULTS CDC Lab Error Misidentifies Status of Index Case in Ann Arbor Measles Outbreak; Positive Case of Measles Now Confirmed at Angell Elementary School

YPSILANTI, Mich., October 12, 2007—Washtenaw County Public Health Department officials, along with experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), held a press briefing late Thursday afternoon to announce the results of lab tests conducted to identify the source of several suspect measles cases in four Ann Arbor elementary schools and one Ypsilanti child development center.

Laura Bauman, Epidemiologist for the Washtenaw County Health Department, released the following results:

Ann Arbor—Burns Park Elementary Cases: 2 Suspect; 2 Negative; 1 Negative Being Retested

The CDC confirmed that a lab testing error on their part had misidentified the index (first) case of measles at the elementary school as positive, when in fact the test was negative. The CDC says it will retest previously submitted samples to confirm this report. Lab tests also indicated that two other cases of suspect measles were negative. Lab tests are still pending for the remaining two suspect cases of measles at the school. Children without proper immunization have been instructed to remain home through October 31.

Ann Arbor—Angell Elementary Cases: 1 Positive

Blood tests conducted by The University of Michigan Health System confirmed one positive case of measles at Angell Elementary. The CDC is now conducting confirmatory tests. Excluded students at Angell have been instructed to remain home through October 24.

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Ann Arbor—Bach Elementary Cases: 1 Negative

Lab tests eliminated the one suspect measles case at Bach Elementary. Excluded students may return to school immediately.

Ann Arbor—Wines Elementary Cases: 1 Suspect

One suspect case of measles is reported at Wines Elementary. Test results are pending. Excluded students have been instructed to remain home through October 26.

Ypsilanti—Perry Child Development Center: 1 Suspect

One suspect case of measles is reported at Perry CDC. Tests results are pending. No children have been excluded from attending the school at this time.

Dr. Stan Reedy, Medical Director, Washtenaw County Public Health Department, commented on the activities of the health department in addressing the suspect measles cases.

“An appropriate public health response to a suspect case of measles is systematic and thorough,” Reedy said. “Since one case of measles is considered an outbreak, we took this very seriously and began planning and strategizing as soon as we could follow-up with the physician and family of the child. We quickly notified physicians, provided information through media releases, and worked closely with the Ann Arbor public school system. School system personnel were extremely cooperative and careful in making sure that parents and school staff had the information they needed to make decisions, such as the exclusion of students who didn’t have vaccination coverage, and responding to school staff who might require vaccinations.”

CDC experts on the call discussed the complexity of diagnosing measles in a well-vaccinated population and provided additional details about the laboratory error that led to the false-positive report on the County’s index case.

Laura Bauman, Epidemiologist for the Washtenaw County Health Department, commented on the continuing need for public awareness about measles in the community. “We rely on clinicians and parents to remain vigilant about all rash illnesses they observe,” she said. “Since we have a confirmed case of measles, suspect cases pending test results, and continue to receive reports of illness that is consistent with measles, it is important to have any rash evaluated by a physician as quickly as possible.”

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

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

For general information about measles from the CDC, visit:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_measles.htm

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