Allegany COUNTY New York

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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To: **All Media**
From: **Robert Matasich, Supervising Public Health Educator**
Re: **Public Health Notice: For Immediate Release**
Date: **August 6, 2026**

Update: Allegany County Health Department Continues Measles Investigation; Additional Direct Contacts Identified

Belmont, NY — The Allegany County Department of Health (ACDOH) is continuing its investigation into a confirmed case of measles within the county. The individual is recovering well. Through contact tracing, public health staff have identified 45 direct contacts and provided them with guidance and monitoring instructions.

Among these contacts, two individuals exposed during the infectious period are now **presumed positive**. This status indicates they have developed symptoms consistent with measles, though laboratory testing was not performed. ACDOH is collaborating closely with health care facilities and community partners to monitor these individuals and contain further spread.

Risk to the general public remains low, particularly for individuals who are fully vaccinated against measles or were born prior to 1957 (and are presumed to have natural immunity).

Key Symptoms to Watch For:

- High fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes
- A red, blotchy rash that typically starts on the face and spreads downward 3 to 5 days after initial symptoms begin

Guidance for Residents:

- **Check Immunization Records:** Ensure you and your family are up to date on the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. Two doses are 97% effective at preventing measles.
- **Call Ahead Before Seeking Care:** If you develop symptoms consistent with measles, **stay home and call your healthcare provider, urgent care, or emergency room before arriving**. Pre-notifying the facility allows medical staff to implement isolation precautions to protect other patients and staff.

For additional information on measles, visit the ACDOH website at www.alleganyco.gov or contact the department at (585) 268-9250.

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