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City of Milwaukee Health Department Mumps Update (5/21/14)

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has confirmed two additional cases of mumps in the city. The total is now at 10 cases (increase of two from previous update). Half of the cases are known to involve students in university settings. Additionally, one case has been confirmed in an adult associated with Milwaukee Public Schools.

The MHD continues to coordinate closely with university health centers and health care providers, as well as MPS administration and health services, to monitor cases, investigate close contacts, and reduce transmission in the community.

Mumps is a contagious illness caused by the mumps virus. It is spread by airborne droplets and contact with saliva or mucus from infected persons. Mumps can be transmitted through coughing and sneezing as well as sharing food or beverage items and utensils with infected individuals. Mumps causes one or more salivary glands (located in the cheeks, below and in front of the ears) to become inflamed, swollen and tender. Other signs of mumps infection may include fever, fatigue, weakness, or pain with chewing or swallowing. Anyone who experiences these symptoms should contact his/her health care provider for diagnosis and testing.

Vaccination with two doses of Mumps-Measles-Rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best way to prevent mumps infection. As cases continue to be reported nationwide, public health officials advise individuals to be aware of their vaccination status, and seek advice from a primary health care provider if your vaccinations are not up to date. For a limited time, the MHD is able to provide MMR vaccine to medically eligible individuals who have not received two doses of the vaccine.

For more information, visit www.milwaukee.gov/health or www.cdc.gov/mumps.

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