February 7, 2015

Dear Students and Colleagues,

As many of you know, there is a measles outbreak in California, neighboring states, and Mexico, associated with Disneyland since December 2014. Our Health Center is prepared to counter this by awareness and prevention.

Currently there have been 24 confirmed cases of measles in Los Angeles County. The number has slowly been rising since December and nearly 800 contact investigations are ongoing.

The virus spreads easily through the air, and can cause serious illness, even death, especially in pregnant women, kids under 5, adults over 20 and those who have weakened immune systems.

Individuals presumed to be immune to measles are those who have had 2 measles vaccines (or 2 MMR vaccines) given after their first birthday, and Americans born before 1957.

If you do not know your measles vaccine status, request a blood test (called a “measles IgG”), from your primary care provider. If you are a student, you can request a measles titer for $9 from the Student Health Center. Please call for an appointment at (310) 287-4478.

For more information on measles in Los Angeles County you can access the following websites.

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/DiseaseSpecific/Measles.htm

Sincerely,

Lisa Ma, M.D.

Manager, Student Health Center at West Los Angeles College