Update Regarding Report of Measles Case on Campus

February 10, 2018

In response to questions many of you have raised following the news last night of one confirmed case of measles, here is an important message to help students understand their risk and how to respond. The health and safety of students are CMU’s first priority, and we have already taken many steps to reduce the risks of a case like this.

Measles is an infectious disease that can be prevented in almost all cases by vaccination. It is extremely rare that vaccinated persons will develop measles, and if they do, they often develop a less infectious and symptomatic illness.

One step in reducing the risk of illness for CMU students has been the requirement to provide evidence of the two MMR vaccines they should have received in childhood. This requirement offers substantial protection to the community and no additional booster is therefore recommended. The estimate of MMR vaccine protection is 97.0% from proper childhood vaccination. For more on MMR vaccine, go to:

https://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccination.html

The vaccination or immunity information that you shared with CMU upon admission can be obtained through the CMU Health Connect portal.

Even with the important protection of vaccination, it is always wise to be mindful of your own health, and to act if you think you are ill. As shared last evening in the CMU alert, signs of measles include:

Red, non-itchy rash which starts at the neck and face and spreads downward to the rest of the body
High fever (101 degrees F or higher)
Cough and runny nose
Conjunctivitis or red, watery eyes

More information about the measles can be found here:

https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html

We strongly urge you to call UHS if you experience these symptoms at 412-268-2157. University Health Services hours can be found on our website. Please call before presenting to the clinic if you are concerned about your symptoms. After hours, you may call 844-881-7176 for consultation.

CMU is a caring and connected community. Please continue to wash your hands often, cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, and get the proper amount of rest. Taking care of yourself is the best way to protect yourself and the wider community.