THREAT ANALYSIS

Disneyland measles outbreak underscores need for infectious disease readiness

A measles outbreak that started in Disneyland has led to 51 cases of the disease in the Western United States and Mexico and has health officials concerned of potential satellite outbreaks. (Source: Los Angeles Times)

While officials hoped the outbreak could be contained within those exposed at the Anaheim amusement park during a four-day period last month, evidence suggests the virus has extended to the broader community. Most of those infected had not been vaccinated against the disease. (Source: CBS News, USA Today) The situation comes after measles cases reached a 20-year high in the United States last year. (Source: New York Times)

Measles, also known as a rubeola, is a highly infectious viral disease with symptoms including a fever, cough, runny nose and skin rash. Most people recover from the illness, but some may develop life-threatening pneumonia or encephalitis. Measles can be spread through a cough or a sneeze, even before a person is symptomatic, and infected droplets can remain active and contagious on surfaces for several hours. (Source: Mayo Clinic)

The disease was declared eradicated in the United States in 2000; experts say the resurgence is due in part to reluctance from some parents to vaccinate their children. (Source: USA Today)

ACTION STEPS
Be alert for measles symptoms, including fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and rash. (Source: California Hospital Association)

If you suspect measles, initiate infection control protocols immediately and contact your local health department. (Source: California Hospital Association)

Educate parents on the importance of getting their children vaccinated. (Source: CDC)

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY

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The Illusionists
Old National Centre

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