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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

News Release - For immediate release

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Tuscarawas County Health Department Cautions Public Regarding Potential Measles Exposure

DOVER—Officials at the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) are letting the public know about a possible measles exposure. If you were at Smokey Lane Stables (686 Smokey Lane Rd NW, Sugarcreek, Ohio) on Friday, July 17, 2026, you may have been exposed to measles. TCHD is asking anyone who was there to check their vaccination status, watch for symptoms, and follow the guidance provided in this news release.

TCHD was notified by the Ohio Department of Health today that two individuals with active measles infection were at the Smokey Lane Stables on July 17. Anyone who was at the same location may have been unknowingly exposed to measles.

“There is no need to panic,” explained Jeff Cameron, MD, TCHD Medical Director. “There are currently no active cases of measles in Tuscarawas County residents. We are asking any community member who may have been exposed to measles to take precautions.”

Measles is a highly contagious virus, and individuals infected with measles can spread it to others, even before symptoms start. The measles virus can live for up to two hours after an infected person has left the location. Symptoms often appear 7-14 days after exposure to the virus, but symptoms can take as long as 21 days to start. Measles symptoms can include high fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes, and a rash beginning 3 to 5 days after other symptoms occur. Some measles infections can be serious, and roughly 1 in 5 people with measles could be hospitalized with complications such as dehydration, pneumonia, or brain swelling.

While the risk to the public is low, anyone who was at Smokey Lane Stables on July 17, 2026, could have been exposed to measles and should take the following actions:

1. **Find out if you have been fully vaccinated for measles or have had measles.** If you are unsure about your vaccination status or previous infections, talk to your healthcare provider.
2. **Call a healthcare provider promptly if you develop illness with fever or an unexplained rash.** To avoid possibly spreading measles to others, call a hospital first to tell them you want to be checked for measles, if possible. It is also important to limit contact with others, especially those without known immunity.

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3. **Vaccination or medication can be given after exposure in some cases to prevent illness—check with your healthcare provider.** This is especially important for people at high risk for measles complications.

For those who were at Smokey Lane Stables on July 17, symptoms could likely appear anytime between 7/24/26 and 8/7/26.

The Tuscarawas County Health Department medical office does not provide testing or treatment for measles. If you have symptoms, please stay home, avoid contact with others, and call your healthcare provider. Please do not go to a healthcare facility without contacting the staff first in case you are contagious.

“Having potential measles exposure in our area highlights the importance of being fully vaccinated,” explained Katie Seward, MPH, MBA, Tuscarawas County Health Commissioner. “Measles can be very serious; however, it’s also preventable. I encourage our community to protect themselves and their families by getting vaccinated.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all children get two doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Older children, adolescents, and adults should receive one or two doses of MMR vaccine if they do not have evidence of immunity. If you have received two doses of the MMR vaccine, your chances of getting measles are very low. After two doses, the vaccine is 97% effective at preventing measles.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your vaccination status if you are unvaccinated or do not know if you are vaccinated. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective at preventing measles. To make an appointment to get an MMR vaccine at the Tuscarawas County Health Department or to request vaccine record information, call 330-343-5555, ext. 1000. For more information about measles, visit <https://www.tchdnow.org/measles.html>.

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