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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM MEASLES IN SEDGWICK COUNTY

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – On July 10, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Sedgwick County Health Department reported two cases of confirmed measles in Sedgwick County linked to the measles outbreak in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Measles is a highly contagious disease and once in a community, others are likely to be exposed. Measles exposure has been confirmed in an infant, who cannot be vaccinated because of age. Children get their first dose of measles vaccination around 12-15 months, and another booster around four to six years of age. Because the infant was around other children in the same age group, those children have been exposed to the measles and are at risk.

To contain the further spread of measles, and to reduce the risk of getting the disease, the Health Department, in conjunction with KDHE and the day care provider (Princeton Children's Center), have closed two infant classrooms of the day care until July 24. Other children in the day care who have received the measles vaccination are not at risk. Parents and children in the day care have been notified. **If you have reason to believe you or your child may have been exposed, do NOT go to an emergency room, physician's office or urgent care facility — instead, CALL your health care provider for instructions.**

Key information to understand about measles:

- If you have been vaccinated or were born before 1957, you are unlikely to get measles.

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- If you have not been vaccinated or are not sure if you have been vaccinated, **CALL your health care provider.**
- If you fear you have been exposed to measles or are experiencing measles symptoms (see below), **DO NOT go to an emergency room, physician's office or urgent care facility — instead, CALL your health care provider for instructions.**

If you do not have a health care provider, call the Sedgwick County Health Department Measles Information Line at 660-7424.

The Sedgwick County Health Department, working with KDHE, continues to investigate and track any potential exposures. **It is absolutely critical that if someone believes they are experiencing measles symptoms that they CALL their health care provider first, to avoid any unnecessary exposure to other individuals.**

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Blotchy rash on the skin, which spreads from the head to the trunk then to the lower extremities
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Feeling run down, achy
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers inside the mouth

Measles can spread to others four days before and four days after the rash appears. It is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing, and symptoms usually appear one to two weeks after exposure. If you or your child experience these symptoms, **CALL your health care provider first.**

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