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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory: Measles Briefing on Friday, May 3, 2019

Shelby County Efforts to Prevent the Threat of Measles

MEMPHIS, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris invites members of the news media to attend a briefing about Shelby County’s continued efforts to protect our community from the measles and other communicable mobile health threats.

WHERE: 160 N. Main, 5th Floor Conference Room

WHEN: Friday, May 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

WHO: Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris and Health Department Director Alisa Haushalter

Last month, the Tennessee Department of Health reported four cases of measles in East Tennessee. These are the first reported cases in the state during 2019. These cases all appear to be linked to an infected individual who reportedly traveled in Tennessee and Mississippi during his or her infectious period.

“The public is rightly concerned given the recent pick-up in reports of new measles cases. We want to address those concerns as best we can and provide information as we know it right now,” says Mayor Lee Harris. “Most importantly, this is the right time to inform the public regarding the resources Shelby County provides, including vaccine services and free vaccines for those who qualify.”

There are more than 600 cases of the disease in 22 states, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those measles outbreaks are concentrated among unvaccinated and under-vaccinated communities.

So far this year, there have been no confirmed measles cases in Shelby County, Tennessee.

Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and environment of all Shelby County residents.

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“The health and wellbeing of Shelby County residents is of the highest concern to me,” says Mayor Harris. “I have asked Health Department Director Dr. Haushalter to make sure the public knows all the preventative measures available for people to keep their families well.”

At the briefing, the Shelby County Health Department will detail the process of investigating, confirming, and quickly containing the measles virus in the event the disease appears in our county. The Health Department will provide information about how people of all ages in Shelby County can make sure they are protected against the virus that causes measles.

(end of release)

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