

Fourth case of measles reported in Monroe Co.

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A fourth case of the measles has been reported, the Monroe County Department of Public Health confirmed Thursday.

The news comes less than a week after two students from Canal View Elementary School in the Spencerport school district had been diagnosed with the disease.

The newest case involves a child who is not vaccinated and is a neighbor of the two Canal View students, according to the health department. The child has been quarantined at home since the health department suspected the child could be infected. This was done to prevent other unvaccinated people or those too young to be vaccinated from contracting the disease.

Besides those three children, a Monroe County toddler who had traveled outside the country was diagnosed with measles in early January.

Measles can be contracted at any age. Symptoms generally appear in two stages. In the first stage, which lasts two to four days, the person may have a runny nose, cough and a slight fever. Eyes may become reddened and sensitive to light while the fever gradually rises each day, often peaking as high as 103 to 105 degrees. Small bluish white spots surrounded by a reddish area may also appear on the inside of the mouth.

The second stage begins on the third to seventh day and consists of a red blotchy rash lasting five to six days. The rash usually begins on the face and then spreads downward and outward, reaching the hands and feet. The rash fades in the same order that it appeared, from head to extremities.

A person can spread measles from four days before the onset of a rash through four days after the rash begins. If untreated, measles can lead to brain infections, brain damage and/or death.

Vaccinations are the best way to prevent measles, the health department said. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are recommended.

For more information about measles, go to health.ny.gov/publications/2170/ and cdc.gov/measles/index.html.