

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mumps return to Illinois State University *Campus community alerted today to mumps activity*

BLOOMINGTON – The McLean County Health Department has been able to link three confirmed cases of mumps by time or place to individuals on the campus of Illinois State University (ISU). University officials will be sending out email to the campus community today alerting them to the isolated outbreak situation and follow up with campus members who are most susceptible to the mumps virus on an as needed basis.

Mumps is a viral infection that causes swelling in the salivary glands near the jaw. It is a contagious disease spread through mucus droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person and is most frequently spread through coughing, sneezing, talking, kissing, sharing food and food utensils, and touching surfaces with droplets on them and then touching your own mouth or nose. The last reported outbreak of mumps in McLean County concluded on August 4, 2016 after a waiting period of 50 days with no new cases was reached.

According to Melissa Graven, Communicable Disease Supervisor at the McLean County Health Department, “Once a virus like mumps is introduced into the community it’s not too surprising to see cases reappear periodically, especially in a closed community like a college campus where you have a population that participates in social activities and often lives in more densely populated living quarters. Our focus now is stopping the spread of the virus by encouraging students to be sure they have received two doses of MMR, stay home if they feel ill, and seek care from their healthcare provider if signs and symptoms persist.”

Preventive steps everyone should take to avoid getting the mumps include the following good health practices:

- Make sure you are up-to-date on two (2) doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
- Avoid sharing drinks, eating utensils, and cigarettes with others.
- Wash your hands well and frequently with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, tables, desks, counters) regularly with soap and water or with cleaning wipes.

The McLean County Health Department is again working together with partners in the community to help curb the spread of mumps. Anyone unsure of their vaccination status can make an appointment at the health department, or with their healthcare provider, to have a mumps titer test done to test for immunity to mumps. Individuals born before 1957 have presumed immunity to mumps but can have a mumps titer test done to be sure of their immunity status. To schedule an MMR vaccination or a titer test at the McLean County Health Department, call 309-888-5435. The health department accepts both private and public health insurance.

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