
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2012

For additional information contact:

Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7110 or Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov

**GOING FOR THE GOLD?
GET YOUR TRAVEL VACCINATIONS FIRST**

GRAND RAPIDS - In just a few weeks, thousands of people will descend on London for the Olympic Summer Games. Before you travel, be sure you are up-to-date on vaccinations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is warning anyone traveling to the London Olympics to be aware of an increased risk of measles infection, and recommends immunizations before you travel. "More than 30,000 cases of the measles were reported in Europe last year, with more than one thousand cases in England and Wales," said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "We need to be vigilant and make sure travelers are not increasing the risk of measles spreading in the U.S."

Before traveling abroad, make sure you are vaccinated against measles:

Infants 6–11 months of age: 1 dose

Children 12 months of age or older: 2 doses (separated by 28 days)

Adolescents and adults who have not had measles or been vaccinated: 2 doses (separated by 28 days)

Symptoms of measles begin about 7 to 14 days after you are exposed to the infection, and include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and sore throat. Measles causes a red or reddish-brown rash, generally starting on the face, moving downward to the neck, arms, trunk, and legs. In some cases, measles can cause pneumonia, encephalitis, and can even be deadly.

The Kent County Health Department offers foreign travel vaccines that follow CDC recommendations. Most vaccines should be received one to two months in advance, or as soon as you are aware of your destination. Our Fuller Clinic provides immunizations by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (616) 632-7200.

Many insurance companies do not cover travel vaccines, and some travel vaccines are expensive. KCHD accepts cash, check, Discover, MasterCard or Visa. For information about vaccines, vaccine administration fees, and consultation fees, go to www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthDepartment or call 616.632.7200 for more information.

###

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503