The Orange County Health Care Agency has released information regarding the presence of measles in Orange County. Further, they have identified the Ayala Science Library on the University of California, Irvine’s campus as a potential exposure location. We have some information that an individual with measles was at that location between 1-6 p.m. on Sunday, January 4.

The risk of developing infection after brief encounters with persons with measles is low, but as a precaution, people who think they have been exposed to an individual with measles should review their vaccination history and talk to their health care provider about how to monitor themselves for illness. Measles spreads by air and by direct contact with an infected person. Measles causes high fever, rash, cough, and red, watery eyes and symptoms generally appear about seven to 14 days after a person is infected. People are contagious from approximately four days before the rash appears through four days after the rash appears. Anyone suspected they have measles should call their medical provider before arriving at the medical office to avoid exposing others to the measles virus.

Students can contact their private health care providers or the Student Health Center for questions and concerns. The Student Health Center is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays and has extended hours until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. The Center is also open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. Center staff can be reached at (949) 824-5301.

Staff and faculty can contact their health care providers or can also call Student Health with questions or concerns. Persons with exposure can also contact the Public Health epidemiology department for guidance at (714) 834-8180 during normal business hours.

Additional information about the measles can be found on the following website: http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/measles

We appreciate your attention to the health of our community.

Marcelle Holmes
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Wellness, Health, and Counseling Services

Scott Bourdon
Deputy Director
Environmental Health and Safety