FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2018

Contacts:
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Gerald Kratochvil
gerald.kratochvil@ks.gov
785-296-5795

The University of Kansas Hospital
Bob Hallinan
bhallina@kumc.edu
913-588-5246

Updated Information about Possible Measles Exposure at
The University of Kansas Hospital

TOPEKA, Kan. – On March 28, 2018 the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Wyandotte County Health Department were notified of a case of measles in an out of state resident with international travel. This case of measles is not associated with the ongoing outbreak of measles in Johnson County.

This person was treated at The University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas and the hospital is currently contacting patients and employees who may have been exposed in specific areas. In addition, it is also possible visitors or others at the hospital were potentially exposed to measles on the following days and times in these areas:

- Friday, March 23 between 10:45 AM until 1:00 PM in the Emergency Department Waiting Room;
- Friday, March 23 between 10:45 AM and 9:30 PM, in the Emergency Department Patient Care Area;
- From Friday, March 23 at 7:30 PM through Monday, March 26 at 4:00 PM in the first floor Unit 15 (cystic fibrosis and medical telemetry); and
- Sunday, March 25 between noon and 2:00 PM in the Cafeteria

KDHE and the Wyandotte County Public Health Department urge people who are ill or exhibiting measles-like symptoms to stay at home unless they are seeking medical care. Before visiting a healthcare provider, call ahead so that the provider can take measures to protect other patients and staff. The average number of days between when a person is exposed to measles, and when they first start showing symptoms is approximately 10 to 14 days (range of 7 to 21 days).

Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing. Symptoms of measles typically begin with a high fever, cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes. Three to five days after symptoms begin a rash develops and usually starts on the face at the hairline and spreads down to the neck, trunk, arms, and legs. Measles can only be spread to others from four days before
to four days after the rash appears. The best way to prevent measles is to get the MMR vaccine. If you have
had measles or have been vaccinated, your risk of contracting the disease is extremely low.

Because measles is a highly infectious disease, it is very important that if a person has been exposed and is
starting to experience symptoms, they STAY HOME except to see a healthcare provider and limit their contact
with people.

For questions please call The University of Kansas Hospital, 913-574-2930, the Wyandotte County Public
Health Department at 913-573-8855, or the KDHE Epidemiology hotline at 877-427-7317.

For more information about measles, please visit http://www.cdc.gov/features/Measles/index.html.

###

KDHE’s mission is to protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans.