



## INFORME RESUMEN DE AMENAZAS A LA SALUD PÚBLICA INTERNACIONAL 10 de mayo de 2011

### MEASLES UPDATE 2011

#### Spain (Canary Islands)

The Canary Islands are suffering the worst measles outbreak for the past decade. The 25 confirmed cases that occurred in the last month were diagnosed in Tenerife. This condition initially occurred in a 14 month old baby living in Santa Cruz. At this moment, the most likely cause for this is the massive contact with people coming from the United Kingdom, where an "anti-vaccine movement" is actively growing, and it has also extended to Germany, albeit in a less extended fashion.

#### Measles on rise in Frankfurt

Currently, 45 measles cases have been diagnosed in Frankfurt. 13 are young adults, 11 of whom have been hospitalised. The Municipal Health Department has now distributed a leaflet advising teachers and the staff of pediatric practices to obtain a 2nd 'catch up' dose if necessary.

#### French measles outbreak hits Switzerland

The number of cases of measles in Switzerland has risen to 337 so far this year [2011]. The outbreak is already 4 times higher than for the entire year of 2010, likely due to cases spreading from bordering France, federal government officials say. Nearly half of the cases were recorded in Geneva, with another 78 cases in the Canton of Vaud.

The Federal Department of Public Health said France is facing an outbreak of measles mostly because of missed vaccinations. More than three-quarters of the 6500 European measles cases have been reported in France, according to the World Health Organization.

#### 1st outbreak of measles in 8 years prompts revaccination of 1.5M Chileans

The alert was given because of the appearance of 3 cases of measles in March [2011]: a father, 35, a mother, 34, and her daughter 10 months. They were joined by a woman from eastern Santiago and the doctor who attended her. What was significant was the age range of infections, men and women between 30 and 37, in addition to the infant. All had one thing in common: they had left the country or come into contact with a traveler.

After 8 years with no transmission of measles in the country, this was of concern for specialists at the Ministry of Health, who found the answer in historical studies of immunization. Records revealed that the age group described had not been covered by the vaccination campaigns of the last decades or had had a lower dose of vaccine, so that their immunity has expired or was deficient. "For a period a single dose was used, because medical knowledge said that a single dose was sufficient. This is now known to be insufficient, because medical knowledge has

changed in 30 years," said Jorge Diaz, undersecretary of public health. Diaz added that other reasons for the low immunization coverage group were economic crises and supply difficulties.

According to the Health Ministry, the vulnerable group comprises nearly 1.5 million people. "It is not as straight forward as vaccination of children, where infants and young children are vaccinated at clinics and healthcare centres, because adults are not regularly monitored," said Carlos Perez, a member of the Advisory Committee on Vaccines and Immunization Strategies (Cavei).

### **US on track for most measles cases in a decade**

The United States seems to be on track to have more measles cases than any year in more than a decade, with virtually all cases linked to other countries, including Europe where there's a big outbreak. Already there have been 98 cases reported so far. The US normally sees only about 50 cases of measles in a year thanks to vaccinations. Health officials are reluctant to make predictions, but acknowledge the pace of reports is unusually hot.

"It's hard to say, but we're certainly getting a lot," said Dr Greg Wallace, who leads the measles, mumps, rubella, and polio team at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Europe, especially France, has been hit hard by measles, with more than 6500 cases reported in 33 nations. International health officials are blaming it on the failure to vaccinate all children. Just about all US outbreaks were sparked by people bringing it here from other countries. This week, international health officials posted an alert urging travelers everywhere to get the recommended two doses of vaccine before flying overseas.

Fuente: Promed