



Using CalCONNECT to Fight Measles – A Christmas Story

On Christmas Eve in 2025, a measles case was reported to the Contra Costa Health (CCH) department.

The health department immediately sprung into action, in spite of the holiday. They successfully stopped a case from becoming an outbreak using three guiding questions:

Who was exposed?

Because the patient worked in retail, twelve coworkers and an unknown number of members of the public were potentially exposed to measles. When the patient sought health care, four health care workers and over 100 people in the waiting room were exposed.

Who was most at risk?

CCH had to quickly determine the vaccination status of those who were exposed. Individuals who are immune do not need to worry when they are exposed, but unvaccinated individuals must quarantine in order to avoid spreading the disease to others. The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) helped CCH quickly determine who was most at risk.

How can the disease be tracked?

CCH created 173 records in CalCONNECT, our state's contact tracing system.

- 25 records were seamlessly transferred to other jurisdictions because they lived outside Contra Costa County (Solano, San Joaquin, Berkeley, and Alameda)
- 74 contacts were monitored for symptoms using phone calls and SMS texting
- 99 individuals were given guidance on what to do if they developed symptoms

All these actions could be taken swiftly, in bulk, because of CalCONNECT. Without that system, the local health department would have had to rely on Excel spreadsheets and manual phone dialing. On Christmas.

No secondary cases were identified. Using well-trained staff and up-to-date technology, Contra Costa County stopped the case from becoming an outbreak.

This is why California cannot afford to lose CalCONNECT.

