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Democratic Republic of the Congo

August 20, 2015

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Adoption Alert: Measles Outbreak in the DRC

On August 14, 2015, the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa sent a message to U.S. citizens living in or traveling to the DRC regarding an outbreak of measles in the provinces of Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami, Tanganyika, and Lualaba. Please see message here

<http://kinshasa.usembassy.gov/sm081415.html>. The Embassy is working closely with the Center for Disease Control to determine specific locations and the impact of the outbreak throughout and beyond these provinces.

Although measles is common throughout the DRC, we understand that adopted children of U.S. citizens who have been unable to leave the DRC due to the suspension on exit permits could be impacted by this disease if not properly vaccinated. If you have an adopted child in the DRC that has not received an MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine, we recommend that you work with your agency representative or child's caregivers to determine whether your child is at risk and to consider scheduling an appointment for vaccination as soon as possible.

Embassy staff has learned that the Centre Medical Diamant (CMD), which has treated U.S. citizens with the vaccine, has a limited amount of MMR vaccines in stock as of August 19. The clinic can order more vaccine and expects delivery within 7 to 10 days. Given the limited amount of vaccines, we recommend calling ahead to ensure you will be able to receive treatment. The location of the clinic is Future Tower, Suite #101, 3642 30th June Boulevard, Gombe, Kinshasa. The MMR vaccine at CMD costs \$35 plus a \$10 vaccination fee- so a total of \$45. To make an appointment you can email RDV@cliniquediamant.cd or complete the form at the following website: cliniquediamant.cd. If you do not have Internet access, you can get an appointment by calling at +243 97 600 0063 or +243 822 999 020. Please be prepared to provide the full name, date of birth and gender of each child.

Should we learn more about the development of this outbreak, the Embassy and the Office of Children's Issues will provide updates at adoption.state.gov. Please contact us with further questions or concerns at ExitPermitSuspensionDRC@state.gov.