Public Health Outreach—Exposure

A student at the local high school develops measles after returning from a trip to a third-world country. The student was not immunized against measles. Her onset of symptoms was January 9. She was diagnosed and reported to the local health department on January 10. Investigation showed that she had been at school on January 8, attended a movie at the local theater complex that evening. The state division of health declared a health emergency. They determined the need to reach out to all unimmunized students in the high school to assure that they got immunized. The state IIS generated a list of all students in the high school needing an MMR, each was sent a letter. The local health department collaborated with the school nurses to hold an immunization clinic. Twenty seven students were immunized. These immunizations were recorded in the state IIS. Ten students received immunizations at their physician’s office. The nurses at these offices recorded these events in their EHR. The EHR updated the records in the IIS. Public Health Nurses called all students who were at risk and did not attend the immunization clinic to determine their immunization status. One high school student developed measles. Investigators reviewed his record in the IIS and could find no evidence of previous immunization against measles. Three persons who were at the movie theater at the same time as the index case saw the news and called public health asking if they were at risk. Two had previous record of 2 doses of MMR, the other lives in another state. That state IIS was queried and was able to furnish the immunization record indicating previous immunization. The local health department decided to assess the level of risk in the rest of the community. The generated a report indicating that the per cent of persons living in the community who were fully immunized against measles was:

0-1 yr 5%

1-5 yr 98%

5-10 yr 99%

10-20 yr 96%

> 20 YR 93%

The overall immunization rate for all persons born since 1957 is 96.5%.