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Costa Rica: On 1991 Measles Epidemic

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On Dec. 30, Health Ministry spokesperson Emilia Leon told reporters that 28 of 5,416 persons infected with measles in 1991 died from the disease. Leon said an intensive vaccination campaign to inoculate 160,000 children would commence in January. According to Leon, adolescents, adults and children under five years of age had been infected during the epidemic, indicating that past vaccination programs lacked adequate follow-up. For 70 years, Costa Rican authorities considered measles as a disease fully under control. Then in 1986, over 8,500 new cases were registered. Between 1988 and 1990, the incidence of measles was again reduced to minimal levels with no more that 500 cases recorded over the period. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 12/30/91)

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