



COUNTY OF ERIE

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HEALTH ADVISORY # 329

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MULTI-STATE MEASLES OUTBREAK – DECEMBER 2014

Please distribute to Healthcare Facilities, Pediatrics Department, Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Laboratory Service, and all patient care areas.

SUMMARY

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State Health Departments are investigating a multi-state outbreak of measles associated with travel to Disneyland Resort Theme Parks (which includes Disneyland and Disney California Adventure). At this time, no source case for the outbreak has been identified, but it is likely that a traveler (or more than one traveler) who was infected with measles overseas visited one or both of the Disney parks in December during their infectious period.
- Healthcare providers should ensure that all of their patients are current on MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine.
- Healthcare providers should consider measles in the differential diagnosis of patients with fever and rash and ask patients about recent international travel or travel to domestic venues frequented by international travelers.
- Isolate suspect measles case-patients and immediately report cases to the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) to ensure a prompt public health response.
- Currently, Erie County and New York have no reported cases of measles.

MEASLES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness. It begins with a prodrome of fever, cough, coryza (runny nose), conjunctivitis (pink eye), lasting 2-4 days prior to rash onset. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, and death. Measles is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing; infected people are contagious from 4 days before their rash starts through 4 days afterwards. After an infected person leaves a location, the virus remains viable for up to 2 hours on surfaces and in the air. The incubation period for measles from exposure to fever is usually about 10 days (range, 7 to 12 days) and from exposure to rash onset is usually 14 days (range, 7 to 21 days).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine* and other vaccines.

- For those who travel abroad, CDC recommends that all U.S. residents older than 6 months be protected from measles and receive MMR vaccine, if needed, prior to departure.
 - Infants 6 through 11 months old should receive 1 dose of MMR vaccine before departure.†
 - Children 12 months of age or older should have documentation of 2 doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days).
 - Teenagers and adults without evidence of measles immunity** should have documentation of 2 appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine.
- Consider measles as a diagnosis in anyone with a febrile rash illness and clinically compatible symptoms (cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis) who has recently traveled abroad or who has had contact with someone with a febrile rash illness. Immunocompromised patients may not exhibit rash or may exhibit an atypical rash.
- Isolate suspect measles case-patients and immediately report cases to the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) to ensure a prompt public health response.
- Obtain specimens for testing, including viral specimens for confirmation and genotyping. Contact the ECDOH for assistance with submitting specimens for testing.

* Children 1 through 12 years of age may receive MMRV vaccine for protection against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella.

† Infants who receive a dose of MMR vaccine before their first birthday should receive 2 more doses of MMR vaccine, the first of which should be administered when the child is 12 through 15 months of age and the second at least 28 days later.

** One of the following is considered evidence of measles immunity for international travelers: 1) birth before 1957, 2) documented administration of 2 doses of live measles virus vaccine (MMR, MMRV, *or* measles vaccines), 3) laboratory (serologic) proof of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease.

REPORTING

Providers are required to report a suspected measles case to the ECDOH at 716-858-7697 during normal business hours or 716-961-7898 evenings, weekends and holidays.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CDC Health Advisory: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00376.asp>

CDC Measles Guidance: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

CDC Measles Vaccination: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccination.html>

NYS Measles Outbreak Control Guidelines:

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/docs/measles_outbreak_control_guidelines.pdf

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence. The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=node/59>.