



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DISEASE CONTROL BRANCH
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Measles Health Alert

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Riverside County Department of Public Health is alerting the medical community of a confirmed measles case in Riverside County. An unvaccinated child presented with fever, cough and rash. The Rubeola IgM was positive. The child was seen in several health care settings during his infectious period. A contact investigation is in progress to evaluate exposed individuals, as well as health care workers. It is important to confirm that health care workers have immunity for measles (and other vaccine preventable diseases).

This case highlights the need for healthcare professionals to be vigilant about measles. *Your expert eye and diagnostic skills can make a difference in stopping the spread of measles in our community:*

Please take the following actions:

- Consider measles in patients of any age who have **a fever AND a rash**. Please remember patients can be infectious 4 days prior to rash onset. Fever can spike as high as 105°F. Measles rashes are red, blotchy, maculopapular, typically starting on the hairline and face, and then spreading downwards to the rest of the body.
- Obtain a thorough history on such patients, including:
 - travel
 - prior vaccinations for measles
 - Contact with anyone with a rash illness
- If you suspect your patient has measles, isolate the patient immediately and report to Disease Control. The risk of measles transmission to others can be reduced if control measures are implemented.
- Collect specimens for measles testing.
 - Draw 1-2 ml blood in a red-top tube; spin down serum if possible. NOTE: Capillary blood (approximately 3 capillary tubes to yield 100 µl of serum) may be collected in situations where venipuncture may be difficult, such as for children <1 year of age.
 - Obtain a throat or nasopharyngeal swab; use a viral culturette and place into viral transport media.
 - Collect 10-40 ml of urine in a sterile 50 ml centrifuge tube or urine specimen container.

