
Measles Health Advisory

February 10, 2014

Situation Update

The Department of Public Health previously alerted the medical community of measles activity in Orange County. Three confirmed cases of measles have been identified in the last six weeks. The first two had a history of acquiring the illness during travel to Asia. The third case had no travel history. Since the February 5, 2014 measles advisory, measles cases have also been reported in Los Angeles County.

In Riverside County, a school age child tested positive for measles PCR. An investigation is in progress to identify all non-immune contacts and the potential source. There is no known contact with the Orange County cases. This situation 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.** Health care facilities should routinely ensure that health care workers are immune to measles, as well as other vaccine preventable diseases.

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 four days prior to rash onset. Fever can spike as high as 105°F. A measles rash is 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 measles:

- Isolate the patient immediately using airborne and standard precautions. The risk of measles transmission to others can be reduced if control measures are implemented.
- Place patient in a surgical mask, if it can be tolerated.
- Do not use the examination room for at least two hours after the measles case (or suspect) leaves.
- Restrict care of patients with suspect or confirmed measles to immune healthcare workers.
- 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.
 - For questions on submission of specimens to County of Riverside Public Health Laboratory, please call Megan Crumpler, Assistant Laboratory Director at (951) 358-5070.

Management of Exposed Individuals

- IG may be given to exposed susceptible individuals of any age, if given within 6 days to prevent exposure.
- MMR vaccine may be given ≤ 72 hours of exposure to persons ≥ 6 months of age with 1 or no documented doses of MMR, if not contraindicated.

Reporting

Notify Disease Control immediately of any suspect measles patients, call (951) 358-5107 during regular business hours; or (951) 782-2974 after hours.