

Public Health Advisory

Measles

December 27, 2016

SITUATION UPDATE

Laboratory testing has confirmed measles as the cause of an outbreak of rash illness reported on December 21, 2016, by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH). Nine confirmed measles cases and two suspect cases have been reported. The case-patients range in age from 16 months to 52 years; six case-patients are members of a single household. Among the nine confirmed cases, eight case patients are unvaccinated and one self-reported receipt of one dose of measles-containing vaccine. The last reported rash onset date for a suspect case was December 20, 2016. Case-patients share several exposure venues, including households, schools, healthcare facilities and religious settings.

Although no measles cases have been identified in Riverside County thus far in 2016, susceptible individuals may be exposed during holiday travel. Eight and five measles cases were reported in Riverside County in 2015 and 2014 respectively.

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, including recent travel to Los Angeles County
 - 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 7-10 ml blood in a red-top or serum separator 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 sterile synthetic swab (e.g., Dacron) and place into viral transport media.
 - Collect 10-50 ml of urine in a sterile container. Collect from the first part of the urine stream.

If measles is suspected:

1. Mask suspect measles patients immediately. If a surgical mask cannot be tolerated by the patient, use other practical means of source containment (e.g., place blanket loosely over the heads of infants and young children while they are in common areas).
2. Do not allow suspect measles patients to remain in the waiting area; isolate them immediately in an airborne infection isolation room if one is available. If such a room is not available, place the patient in a private room with the door closed.
(See CDC's "Guideline for Isolation Precautions" at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007ip/2007isolationprecautions.html>)
3. If possible, limit entry to patient's room only to healthcare workers with documentation of 2 doses of live measles vaccine or laboratory evidence of immunity (measles IgG positive).
4. Do not allow susceptible people into the patient's room.
5. Do not use the examination room for at least two hours after the possibly infectious patient leaves.
6. If possible, schedule suspect measles patients at the end of the day.
7. Notify Disease Control immediately of any suspect measles patients, call (951) 358-5107 during regular business hours; or (951) 782-2974 after hours.
8. For questions on submission of specimens to Riverside County Public Health Laboratory, please call Megan Crumpler, Laboratory Director at (951) 358-5070.
9. Do not refer suspect measles patients to other locations for clinical evaluation or laboratory testing unless appropriate infection control measures can be implemented at those locations.
10. Instruct suspect measles patients and exposed persons to inform all healthcare providers of the possibility of measles prior to entering a healthcare facility, so that appropriate infection control precautions can be implemented.