



San Mateo County Health System

Main Number: (650) 573-2346
After Hours: (650) 363-4981
Fax: (650) 273-2919

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, MBA, Health Officer
Cassius Lockett, PhD, Director

HEALTH ADVISORY – April 5, 2018 Measles in San Francisco Bay Area

SITUATION

Six (6) cases of measles have been identified between 3/5/18 and 4/3/18 in residents of Santa Clara County (5) and Alameda County (1). One (1) additional linked case has been confirmed in Nevada. All but one of the cases were unvaccinated. The index case is an unvaccinated traveler who was exposed in Europe and developed measles after returning to the San Francisco Bay Area. So far, no case has been identified in San Mateo County but we are asking San Mateo County providers to maintain a high index of suspicion.

Measles is very infectious, and airborne transmission can occur in settings with large numbers of people like healthcare facilities, schools, childcares, shopping centers, public transportation, airports, and amusement parks. Clinicians should be vigilant to promptly identify and appropriately manage suspected measles cases in order to avoid ongoing transmission and ensure that patients and staff are up-to-date with immunizations.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS

- 1. Consider/suspect measles** in patients with a rash and fever $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38.3°C) regardless of travel history. Ask about measles vaccination and exposure to known measles cases, international travel, or international visitors in the three weeks prior to illness.
- 2. Prepare your facility for the possibility of patients with measles.** Ask patients to call ahead first if they have fever and rash. Post signage that directs patients with fever and rash to notify staff. Train staff to immediately implement airborne precautions if measles is suspected.
 - Mask and isolate the patient in an airborne isolation room
 - Do not re-use exam room for at least one hour after the patient has left the room
 - If referring the patient to other healthcare facilities, ensure that airborne precautions are in place.
- 3. Report suspected measles cases immediately while the patient is still in your office. During normal business hours, please call the San Mateo County Communicable Diseases Control Program at 650-573-2346.** After hours call 650-363-4981 and ask for the On-call Health Officer.
- After consultation with the San Mateo County Communicable Diseases Control Program, **test** suspected measles cases as follows:
 - Collect a throat swab (for measles PCR) with a Dacron swab and place in Viral Transport Media
 - Collect a urine specimen (for measles PCR) in any container (does not need to be sterile)
 - Draw blood (for measles IgM and IgG) if and only if it is already Day 4 or later after rash onset
 - Collecting specimens while the patient is at your facility will prevent delays in confirmation and limit the potential for additional healthcare visits/exposures. Details on specimen collection, storage and shipment can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ydhh9u85>.
 - Please HOLD all specimens for testing by public health
- 5. Advise patients with suspected measles to stay home with no visitors until at least four days after rash onset** and/or until cleared to resume normal activities by the San Mateo County Communicable Diseases Control Program. Patients should go home by private vehicle, not take public transportation and should only be accompanied by someone immune to measles.
- 6. Confirm immunity of contacts and health care staff** with unknown vaccination status by ordering Measles IgG only. DO NOT order measles IgM testing for asymptomatic individuals, as there is a substantial possibility of a false positive IgM result. *Confirm staff immunity now to avoid staff exclusion from work in the event of an exposure.*
- 7. Vaccinate children and non-immune adults**, unless contraindicated, according to national guidelines. www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules

Additional resources: www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp, <http://www.smchealth.org/providers/measles>, www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/measles.aspx