



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

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Health Officer

Health Alert

April 4, 2014

Measles

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Summary

A case of measles has just been confirmed in a Berkeley resident. We are asking clinicians to be vigilant for possible cases of measles and to report suspected measles cases immediately.

Current Situation

Since March, there are 49 confirmed measles cases in California with onset in 2014. Alameda County has reported 2 cases and Contra Costa County has reported 4 cases. This is a higher number of cases than expected at this time of year. Many cases have occurred among returning international travelers and their contacts and over half occurred in unvaccinated persons. However, a few cases have occurred in persons without a history of such exposures and cases have occurred in patients with documented receipt of measles vaccine.

For the current update and recommendations see CDPH Health Advisory for April 2, 2014

[CDPH-MeaslesHealthAdvisory4-2-2014](#)

Actions Requested of Healthcare professionals

1. WATCH for measles symptoms – Consider measles in patients of any age who have **a fever AND a rash** regardless of their travel history. Please note that although documentation of receipt of two doses of MMR vaccine or a prior positive measles IgG test result makes the diagnosis of measles less likely, measles can still occur in such persons.
2. IMMEDIATELY REPORT suspect measles cases to Berkeley Public Health by calling 510-981-5300. Do not wait for lab confirmation to call us. After hours the Public Health Officer can be reached at 510-981-5911 (Berkeley Police Dispatch).
3. TEST – order measles serologic testing (IgM and IgG) and nasopharyngeal, throat and urine specimens for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and viral culture. To expedite testing and decrease delay in diagnosis, coordinate specimen handling with Berkeley Public Health 510-981-5300. **Do not send specimens to a commercial lab.**
4. IMPLEMENT airborne precautions immediately, and mask and isolate patient (negative pressure room if available). Do not use any regular exam room for at least 2 hours after a suspected measles patient has left the room.
5. ADVISE patient to stay home until contacted by Berkeley Public Health.

Sources for Information

- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>
- City of Berkeley Public Health Division: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH):
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx>
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPHMeaslesInvestigationQuicksheet.pdf>

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