



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

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Health Alert January 16, 2015

Measles Update

Current Situation:

On January 7, 2015, The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an alert for a measles outbreak associated with Disneyland in Orange County, California. There are now over 25 confirmed cases statewide. They involve many local health jurisdictions with hundreds of contacts for investigation and monitoring.

Berkeley public health has no confirmed cases currently, but is involved in an extensive contact investigation.

We are requesting that you be alert to the possibility of measles in patients of any age who have fever and a rash, and report any suspected measles case immediately to City of Berkeley Public Health Communicable Disease Program.

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. **Mask anyone with fever and rash.** 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, or if you do not reach us at that number, 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.

6. **Ensure your staff and patients are up-to-date on their vaccinations against measles.**

Two doses of measles-containing vaccine (MMR vaccine) are more than 99% effective in preventing measles.

The first dose is routinely given at 12-15 months of age, with the second dose at age 4-6 years. Consider giving the second dose earlier as a prevention strategy; the second dose may be given as early as 28 days after the first dose.

Sources for Information:

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>

Testing:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPHMeaslesLabTesting2011-01.pdf>

CDPH Health advisory 1/7/15:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH-MeaslesHealthAdvisory1-7-2015.pdf>

Please distribute to all providers in your practice