



Disease Control and Epidemiology

Measles Cases Identified in Orange County

April 4, 2017

Measles was recently confirmed in two Orange County residents with no known association to each other. The first case, an adult, reported recent international travel and was most likely infected while abroad. The second case, a high school student, reported no recent travel and had no known exposures to ill contacts.

Measles symptoms usually begin 10-12 days (up to 21 days) after exposure with a prodrome of fever as high as 105°F (40.5°C), malaise, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis. Two to four days following onset of the prodrome, a maculopapular rash develops. The rash usually begins around the ears and hairline and then spreads down to cover the face, trunk, arms, and legs.

Recommendations

All clinicians should have heightened awareness for suspect measles cases and review the following recommendations:

1. **Consider the diagnosis of measles in patients with an appropriate clinical presentation.**
 - Any patient suspected of having measles should be masked and immediately moved to a negative pressure room when available.
 - Providers seeing patients in an office or clinic setting should consider options such as arranging to see suspect measles cases after all other patients have left the office, or assessing patients outside of the building to avoid having a potentially infectious patient enter the office.
2. **Notify Orange County Public Health Epidemiology immediately about any suspect cases during office hours by calling 714-834-8180 (or 714-628-7008 after hours).**
 - Do not wait for laboratory confirmation before reporting a suspect case. Suspect cases of measles should be tested with a throat (or nasopharyngeal) swab for measles PCR and culture and serum measles IgM; Orange County Public Health can assist with facilitating testing.
 - **PLEASE DO NOT refer patients to Public Health without first discussing with one of our staff.**
 - **DO NOT send potentially infectious suspect measles patients to a reference laboratory for specimen collection.**
3. **Ensure staff and patients are up-to-date on vaccinations.**
 - Two doses of measles-containing vaccine (MMR vaccine) are more than 99% effective in preventing measles. Measles vaccines have been available in the United States since 1963, and two doses have been recommended since 1989. The first dose is given at 12-15 months of age, with the second dose usually at age 4-6 years. The second dose may be given any time ≥ 28 days after the first dose.
 - **All medical staff should have two documented doses of MMR or serologic evidence of measles immunity.**

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Epidemiology and Assessment Program at 714-834-8180**. For more information go to: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi>