



COUNTY OF ORANGE

PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY & ASSESSMENT

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 6128
Santa Ana, CA 92706-0128

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-8180
FAX: (714) 834-8196

Measles Advisory

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New cases of measles continue to be identified in Orange County and around California. 29 cases have been identified in California thus far in 2014. Six cases of measles been reported to in Orange County since the latter part of December. Two of the OC cases had a history of acquiring illness during travel to Asia, one had a history of exposure to a previous Orange County measles case, and three do not have a history of travel or exposure to travelers or other measles cases. Those infected have ranged from three to 38 years of age, and two cases were hospitalized. The cases have been identified in multiple cities throughout the county. Future cases may continue to occur.

Providers should consider the diagnosis of measles in patients with an appropriate clinical presentation, particularly in those with a history of international travel.

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.

Providers should notify Orange County Public Health Epidemiology immediately at 714-834-8180 about any suspect cases. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation before reporting a suspect case. Testing can be performed by sending serum for measles IgM and IgG and nasopharyngeal, throat, and urine specimens for measles polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and virus culture to Orange County Public Health Laboratory. Testing will be coordinated for suspect cases after reporting to Epidemiology.

Measles is extremely infectious. When a potential case of measles is identified, the following infection control practices should be implemented immediately to prevent transmission in health-care settings:

- Utilize airborne and standard precautions. Immediately remove patient from the waiting area and place in an airborne infection (negative pressure) isolation room if available, OR at minimum, in a private room with door closed. Ask patient to wear a surgical mask, if tolerated.
- Restrict care for patients with suspect or confirmed measles to immune healthcare workers.

Measles vaccination is routinely recommended for all children. The first dose is given at 12-15 months of age, with the second dose at age 4-6 years. The second dose may be given any time ≥ 28 days after the first dose. Adolescents, adults, health care workers, and persons traveling to parts of the world where measles is endemic are urged to be vaccinated against measles.

For more information, see <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/measles> or the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm>.