



**COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH
EPIDEMIOLOGY & ASSESSMENT**

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**Measles Advisory
January 6, 2015**

Measles was recently confirmed in an Orange County resident with no known travel outside of the Orange County. In addition, several confirmed and suspect measles cases have been reported in California and Utah with travel to Orange County in mid-December during their exposure period. Common exposure locations include the Disneyland and California Adventure theme parks but since the index case has not been identified, there may have been additional exposures by the case in other locations within the county. Now with several cases identified in Southern California, exposures may also be occurring in other areas and additional cases are expected.

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.

Health care providers should:

- **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.
- **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.**
- **Ensure staff and patients are up-to-date,**
 - 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.**

For more information on measles, see <http://ohealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/measles>.