



**COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

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**PUBLIC HEALTH
EPIDEMIOLOGY & ASSESSMENT**

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Measles (Rubeola) Reminder

An ongoing outbreak of measles (rubeola) involving San Diego County is a reminder to consider measles in patients with febrile rash illness and assure that patients, their families, and your staff members are fully vaccinated. In the U.S., sporadic cases and outbreaks of measles occasionally occur in conjunction with the importation of measles by a visitor to the U.S. or a U.S. traveler returning from other countries. **Once measles is suspected, prompt isolation and reporting of these cases to Public Health is critical to stop the spread in our community.**

If you have a patient with febrile rash illness in whom you suspect measles:

1. **Report case to Orange County Public Health at 714-834-8180.**
2. **Send serum for measles IgM and IgG and nasopharyngeal, throat, or urine specimens for measles virus culture.** Early in illness, throat specimens have higher yield; later in illness, urine specimens are better. Orange County Public Health can assist with testing for measles on suspect cases.
3. **Recommend that all suspect measles cases stay home during prodrome and until four (4) days after onset of rash.** Suspect measles cases should be instructed to call ahead prior to coming to the office so they can be appropriately masked upon entering the building and taken directly into the examination room. Health care providers should use airborne infection isolation precautions to prevent transmission in healthcare settings.
4. **Provide post-exposure prophylaxis for susceptible contacts. MMR vaccine** given within 72 hours of exposure to non-pregnant, immunocompetent, susceptible contacts ≥ 12 months of age may modify or prevent illness. MMR vaccine given after 72 hours will not prevent or modify illness from this exposure, but is recommended in susceptible persons to prevent infections from future exposures. **Immune globulin (IG)** given within 6 days to susceptible contacts at high risk for developing severe measles (infants < 12 months of age, pregnant women, immunocompromised persons) may modify or prevent illness.
5. **Assess immunity status of staff.** All staff working in a healthcare facility (HCW) should have evidence of immunity to measles, which includes:
 1. Positive serum IgG to measles, OR
 2. History of measles based on health care provider diagnosis, OR
 3. Birth before 1957, OR
 4. Two doses of measles-containing vaccine (usually given as MMR) since HCW are at higher risk of measles exposure.
6. **Exclude exposed non-immune (susceptible) staff from direct patient contact from the 5th to 21st days after exposure.**

If you have a patient who is susceptible to measles and may have been exposed to one of the measles cases associated with this outbreak, please contact Public Health at 714-834-8180.

For more information, see the Measles (Rubeola) Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers available at <http://ochealthinfo.com/epi/for-phys.htm> or the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm>.

A fact sheet for patients is available at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi>.