



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN YOUR PRACTICE

TO: Primary Care Staff, Infectious Disease, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, and Infection Control Personnel

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DATE: May 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Measles Advisory

Summary:

- A measles case has been confirmed in West Hartford, Connecticut.
- The case arrived in the United States on May 10th and was infectious on arrival through approximately May 16th.
- The average incubation period of measles (until onset of rash) is 10 to 14 days.
- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is working to identify and inform contacts of the case. We may see secondary cases of measles among contacts who have never been vaccinated for measles.
- All suspected measles cases must be reported to the DPH Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929. All requests for testing from the DPH Laboratory must be reported and approved by the Immunization Program.

Children or adults born during or since 1957 who do **not** have documented evidence of receiving a measles containing vaccine or documented evidence of laboratory confirmed measles are considered to be **highly susceptible** to measles. All people in this age group are recommended to receive two doses of a measles containing vaccine.

Recommendations

1. **Consider measles** in patients who present with a febrile rash illness. Have a high index of suspicion in patients who present with morbilliform rash with fever that was present at the time of rash onset AND cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis.
2. **Immediately notify** the DPH Immunization Program of **any** patient that you suspect could have measles by telephone at (860) 509-7929 or during evenings, weekends, or holidays call (860) 509-8000.
3. **Take blood** for serological confirmation (IgM testing). To expedite diagnosis, this test can be performed at the DPH Laboratory. Call the Immunization Program for more information.
4. **Minimize transmission:**
 - a. Be alert for new measles cases - make sure all staff, particularly triage nurses, have a high index of suspicion for patients presenting with a febrile rash illness.
 - b. If other patients are in the waiting room when they arrive, give the suspected case a mask and take him/her directly to a consulting room (that room should not be used for another patient for at least two hours after the consultation).
5. **In general practice:**
 - a. See suspected measles patients at home if possible.

- b. If not possible, make their appointment the last of the day to minimize contact with other patients in the waiting room.
 - c. If a patient needs to be sent to hospital, give them a mask to wear and telephone ahead and let the Emergency Department or Ambulance staff (if applicable) know that you are referring a case of suspected measles.
6. **Seek advice from the DPH regarding the management of susceptible contacts:**
- a. On DPH advice, follow up all persons who have been in the waiting room **at the same time** as a case (if infection control precautions were not implemented) and **for two hours** after the visit. These people are considered to be exposed to the measles virus.
To prevent measles in susceptible contacts give:
 - Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine if within 72 hours of first contact with the patient to those 6 months of age and older without contraindications; OR
 - Immunoglobulin if longer than 72 hours but within 6 days from contact to those under 6 months of age or who have contraindications to MMR.
7. **Check vaccination records for:**
- a. Your staff - All staff born during or since 1957 should have documentation of two doses of measles containing vaccine.
 - b. Your patients - Ideally all patients born during or since 1966 should have received two doses of a measles-containing vaccine.
 - c. Currently MMR vaccine is recommended at 12–15 months and 4–6 years of age.

Attached is a sign that can be distributed to health care personnel or posted in a hospital. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measles home page at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html>.