

Measles Health Alert 2014

Measles is highly contagious. Please protect patients, visitors, and staff!



Keep an eye out for measles symptoms:

Suspect measles in patients with:

- Fever and rash
- History of international travel in the past 3 weeks or contact with international visitors

Note: A history of 2 doses of MMR vaccine does not exclude a measles diagnosis.

Prodrome

- Mild to moderate fever
- Cough
- Coryza
- Conjunctivitis

Rash onset

- Fever spikes, often as high as 104° to 105° F
- Red, maculopapular rash that may become confluent—typically starts at hairline, then face, and spreads rapidly down body
- Koplik's spots (tiny blue/white spots on the bright red background of the buccal mucosa) may be present



Act immediately if you suspect measles:

- Implement airborne infection control precautions immediately, mask and isolate patient—negative pressure room, if available.
- Permit only staff immune to measles to be near the patient.
- Notify state and local health departments immediately.

- Expedite measles serologic testing (IgM and IgG) at a public health lab if possible; use of commercial labs may delay diagnosis.
- Safeguard other facilities: assure airborne infection control precautions before referring patients.
- Do not use any regular exam room for at least 2 hours after a suspected measles patient has left the room.

A message from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program. For more information visit <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html> or call (860) 509-7929.