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Subject: Measles Situational Update for Healthcare Providers: CDC Provider Letter & COCA Email Notification



April 11, 2025

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distributed two communications addressing the expanding measles outbreak in the United States and case importations related to international travel. See the key points from both communications below.

- Measles can be severe. Since January 1, 2025, 12% of reported measles cases in the United States have been hospitalized. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a third measles death in an unvaccinated child on April 6th, 2025.
- The risk of measles remains low for most of the United States due to high immunization coverage and rapid case identification and response efforts.
- Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination is the best way to protect against measles and its complications.
- Residents of and travelers to domestic measles outbreak areas with ongoing, community-wide transmission and international travelers may need additional doses of MMR vaccine.

Healthcare providers should consider measles in patients presenting with a [clinically consistent](#) febrile rash illness, particularly those with recent international travel or contact with individuals from areas experiencing outbreaks.

If you suspect a patient has measles: Immediately notify the CT DPH Immunization Program to ensure rapid testing and investigation. Measles is a category 1 reportable disease in Connecticut, which means providers must call immediately upon suspicion.

Call 860-509-7929 during normal business hours (M-F 8:30am to 4:30 pm). To report a suspected case after hours or on weekends/holidays, call 860-509-8000.

Measles testing is available through commercial laboratories and at the state public health laboratory (SPHL). The preferred diagnostic test for measles is a real-time RT-PCR performed on a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab. For testing performed at the SPHL, standard viral testing supplies may be used. Collect specimens on flocked synthetic or synthetic swabs and place in viral transport media (VTM). Additional information on measles testing, testing supplies, and turn-around times can be found [here](#).

Additionally, CT DPH urges providers to speak with patients regarding upcoming travel plans and to recommend vaccination when clinically indicated. Specifically, individuals aged six months and older who will be traveling internationally or to areas in the U.S. with active measles cases should receive the MMR vaccine at least two weeks prior to travel. [Measles-mumps-rubella \(MMR\) vaccination](#) remains the most important tool for preventing measles.

Information on measles illness and prevention for patients is available on a new [DPH measles webpage](#). Please feel free to refer patients to this page.

For the full COCA message, please click [here](#).

For the full CDC provider letter, please click [here](#)

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