



Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana Health Alert Network Advisory — 2.1.2019

Providers Advised to Remain Vigilant as Measles Activity Increases across the US

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is urging providers across the state to be aware of recent increased measles activity across the United States. Recently, outbreaks have occurred or are continuing in New York State, New York City, and Washington State, with additional cases in Georgia and Oregon. At this time, no cases have been reported in Indiana, and the ISDH is not currently investigating any pending cases. Worldwide, outbreaks have been occurring in Israel and across Europe.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness transmitted by nose and throat secretions of an infected person. Patients infected with measles are considered **most infectious between approximately four days before rash onset through four days after rash onset**. Prodromal symptoms begin 10-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis. Around the fourth day of illness, fever increases and a maculopapular rash appears on the face or near the hairline and spreads downward and outward to the rest of the body. This rash usually lasts around four to five days before slowly fading the same way that it appeared.

When considering a measles diagnosis in patients, healthcare providers are encouraged to ask about measles vaccination history, travel within the past month, and contact with individuals exhibiting symptoms within the past month. Healthcare providers should especially consider travel to any states or countries that are currently experiencing outbreaks when evaluating a patient with measles-like symptoms.

Suspected cases of measles should be self-isolated and immediately reported to the local health department or the ISDH to ensure a prompt public health response. Healthcare providers should **collect a nasopharyngeal swab within three days of symptom onset** for individuals presenting with measles symptoms (fever, cough, conjunctivitis, coryza and rash) for PCR testing at the ISDH laboratory.

The current recommendation for immunization is two doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine to protect against measles. Children should get a first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and a second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Two doses of MMR vaccine are considered about 97% effective (range 67%-100%) in preventing measles infection.

For questions or to report a suspect case, please contact Payton Revolt, ISDH Vaccine-Preventable Disease Epidemiologist, at prevolt@isdh.in.gov or at 317-233-7277 or Ali Bianco, Vaccine-Preventable Disease Public Health Investigator, at abianco@isdh.in.gov or at 317-233-7112.

To report a suspect case after business hours (8:15 am – 4:45 pm M-F), please contact the ISDH Epidemiologist-On-Call at 317-233-1325.

Contact the ISDH Laboratory at 317-921-5858 for assistance with submitting specimens for testing.

More information on measles can be found on the CDC [Measles](#) website.