

Date: March 8, 2024
To: Medical Care Providers, Healthcare and other Facilities
From: Thea Papasozomenos, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer

Please distribute to all providers
and relevant staff in your facility

HEALTH ALERT

Confirmed Measles Case in Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County Public Health (PH) has confirmed a case of measles in an unvaccinated young child. PH investigation is ongoing into the source of exposure to the child. The child is not known to have traveled abroad recently, but may have had recent contact with an international traveler.

Guidance for Stanislaus County Providers:

Suspect measles if compatible symptoms AND risk factor(s) are present:

- Measles symptoms
 - Fever
 - Rash that starts on the head and descends
 - Usually, at least one of the “3 Cs” – cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis AND
- Risk Factors increasing likelihood of measles diagnosis:
 - In the prior 3 weeks, any of: travel outside of North America, transit through U.S. international airports, or interaction with international visitors (including at a U.S. tourist attraction)
 - Confirmed measles cases in the community

Notify Stanislaus County Public Health of any suspected measles cases:

- PH must approve and coordinate necessary testing at Public Health Laboratories.
- PH Communicable Disease program can be reached at (209)558-5678 during normal business hours or after-hours/weekends at (209)664-6032.

Specimen Collection:

- Measles rRT-PCR testing is the preferred testing methodology; performed by San Joaquin Public Health Laboratory (SJPHL)
 - While PCR testing is available commercially, results will not be received in a timely manner and is not recommended when there is a high index of suspicion.
- NP /or OP swab and blood specimen should be collected from all patients with clinical features compatible with measles. Urine specimens may also contain virus.
 - Collection of both respiratory and urine specimens can increase likelihood of detecting virus.
 - Collect all specimens as soon as possible after rash onset.
 - NP or OP swabs are the **preferred** specimen for virus isolation or rRT-PCR detection.
 - Measles serologic testing (IgG) of blood specimen can be performed by commercial laboratories. Measles IgM testing is frequently falsely positive and is not recommended.
 - Please refer to CDPH Measles Laboratory Testing Guidance for additional information on specimen collection.

Additional Information:

- CDC Measles Guidance for Healthcare Providers:
<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html#:~:text=Healthcare%20providers%20are%20required%20to%20measles%20cases%20and%20all%20outbreaks.>
- CDC COCA Now, Stay Alert for Measles Cases:
<https://emergency.cdc.gov/newsletters/coca/2024/012524.html>
- CDPH Immunization Branch, Measles:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/measles.aspx>
- CDPH Measles Laboratory Testing Guidance:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Measles-Testing-InformationVRDL.pdf>

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