



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



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Topic: Increased Measles Activity in the United States in 2015

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To: Public and Private Health Care Providers; Hospitals; Public, Private and Charter Schools

The United States is currently experiencing multi-state outbreaks of measles. Between January 1st and 28th, 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported 84 cases of measles across 14 states. The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health has confirmed with the Southern Nevada Health District that there are 2 cases of measles in Clark County. CDC urges healthcare professionals to consider measles when evaluating patients with febrile rash and ask about a patient's vaccine status, recent travel history, and contact with individuals who have febrile rash illness. Nevada's healthcare providers are encouraged to consider the possibility of measles for any rash-like illness associated with fever.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness that can lead to severe complications and death. Healthcare providers should consider the possibility of measles in patients who:

- present with a febrile rash illness and clinically compatible symptoms [cough, coryza (or runny nose) or conjunctivitis (pink eye)];
- recently traveled internationally or were exposed to someone who recently travelled internationally;
- have not been fully vaccinated against measles.

The increase of international importations and subsequent transmission in certain settings in the United States highlights the importance of ensuring age-appropriate vaccination for everyone, maintaining high vaccination coverage in the population, ensuring vaccination coverage of healthcare workers, as well as the need for heightened awareness among providers regarding the possibility of measles. Healthcare providers should also consider measles when evaluating patients for any other febrile rash illnesses.

If you suspect a patient may have measles:

- 1. Promptly isolate the patient and provide them a surgical mask to wear to avoid disease transmission.**
- 2. Immediately report the suspect measles case to your local health authority (or call (775) 400-0333).**
- 3. Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles; the local health authority will provide guidance on measles testing which includes IgM and PCR testing.**

The current situation emphasizes the importance of reporting vaccines into Nevada WebIZ in a timely manner. Public health officials rely on Nevada WebIZ data to address the threat level of vaccine-preventable diseases, like measles, in our communities. All immunizing providers are reminded that data entry into Nevada WebIZ is state law and best practice is to ensure entry within 30 days from date of administration.

Additional guidance for healthcare providers can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>.

Also, see CDC's measles surveillance guidance: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt07-measles.html>.

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Tracey Green, MD
Chief Medical Officer

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Richard Whitley, MS
Administrator