



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

November 14, 2019

MEDICAL ADVISORY: MEASLES INFECTION IN
RECENT VISITOR TO OAHU

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is investigating an imported case of confirmed measles (rubeola) in an international visitor to Oahu. The period of infectivity while in Hawaii ranged from October 31–November 7, 2019. The average incubation period for measles is 8–12 days from exposure to onset of symptoms and 14 days from exposure to appearance of the rash (range 7–21 days). Therefore, cases of measles resulting from exposure may be expected from November 7–28, 2019.

Providers are encouraged to remain vigilant. Measles outbreaks are occurring in multiple countries around the world (e.g., [Western] Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, Philippines),¹ and travelers, including Hawaii residents, may bring the disease into our State at any time. Clinicians are advised to consider measles infection, especially in unimmunized persons with:

- Fever $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis
- Generalized maculopapular rash

Measles is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread and is highly contagious. The virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area. Persons with measles are contagious from 4 days before through 4 days after rash onset.

If a person with suspected measles presents in your office:

- Promptly isolate to avoid disease transmission and place a mask on the patient
- Immediately report the suspected case to HDOH
- Collect a throat or nasopharyngeal swab for RT-PCR (place synthetic swab in 1–3 mL of viral transport media (keep cold [4°C])).

¹ <https://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/measles-data-2019/en/>,
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/measles-global>

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Ensure your patients and staff are protected against measles by confirming:

- All patients without contraindications are age-appropriately vaccinated
- All staff have documented presumptive evidence of immunity to measles
 - Two valid, documented doses of measles-containing vaccine
 - Laboratory evidence of immunity/confirmation of disease

Note: Healthcare workers without evidence of immunity must be excluded from day 5 after first exposure through day 21 following last exposure, *regardless of receipt of post-exposure prophylaxis*.

Measles is an URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION. Please report any suspected case of measles. Do NOT wait for laboratory confirmation:

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line).....(808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office.....(808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office.....(808) 241-3563
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo).....(808) 933-0912
Big Island District Health Office (Kona)(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu(808) 600-3625
After hours on neighbor islands(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your assistance in protecting the health of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, M.D., F.A.A.P
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health

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