



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

January 29, 2020

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: MEASLES IDENTIFIED IN RECENT INTERNATIONAL VISITOR**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is investigating an imported case of measles (rubeola) in an international visitor to Maui, who traveled through the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu on the way to Kahului. The period of infectivity while in Hawaii ranged from January 12 through January 19, 2020. 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 January 19–February 9, 2020.

Providers are encouraged to consider measles infection, *especially in international travelers with a febrile rash illness*. Symptoms of measles, particularly in unimmunized persons include:

- 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 [ $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ])).

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

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January 29, 2020

Page 2

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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