



April 1, 2019

Re: Detroit Health Department Measles Advisory

Dear Detroit Partners in Care,

As you are aware, there is currently an outbreak of measles in southeast Michigan. As of March 27, 2019, 22 cases are confirmed in Oakland County residents and 1 case in Wayne County. No measles cases have been identified in City of Detroit residents. The Detroit Health Department wants clinicians to have heightened awareness for potential measles cases and to understand what they can do to respond.

Be alert for possible cases and report to the Detroit Health Department. Symptoms of measles generally includes a prodrome of fever, cough, conjunctivitis, and coryza—followed by a classic rash that starts on the face and spreads to the body. Clinicians should take careful histories of their patients to include travel history. In addition to the outbreaks involving Oakland and Wayne counties, there have been reported outbreaks in New York, Washington, Texas, Illinois, and California. **Clinicians need to report all suspected rash illnesses consistent with measles, in children or adults, to the Detroit Health Department’s Communicable Disease Division at 313-876-4000 (phone) or 313-877-9286 (fax) during regular office hours. For after hours and weekends, call the MDHHS Communicable Disease Division at 517-335-9030 (phone).** Please keep in mind that the clinical presentation may be altered if the individual has had previous measles vaccination. Appropriate airborne precautions should be made for any individual with suspected measles so that it is not spread to others.

Post-exposure prophylaxis. Vaccination is recommended as post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours of potential exposure. Immune-globulin (Ig) is effective within six days of exposure for high-risk individuals who are unable to receive the MMR vaccine. A complete list of Oakland-County exposure locations is available at oakgov.com/health. Potential Wayne County exposure locations are not yet known.

Lab testing. We encourage clinicians to test symptomatic individuals for typical respiratory pathogens, along with Measles IgM serology **and** nasopharyngeal or throat swab for measles PCR. Please inform the Detroit Health Department Communicable Disease Program when a case is suspected and a specimen is collected. Additional measles testing guidance is located here:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Measles_388976_7.pdf

Secondary cases. The incubation period for measles, from exposure to rash onset ranges 7 – 21 days. Secondary cases could present to care through at least mid-April.

Individuals considered immune to measles are those who:

1. Had two appropriately-spaced doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine after the first birthday

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2. Have lab evidence of immunity

If individuals cannot confirm one of the above, they should be considered non-immune and vaccinated unless there is a contraindication.

Detailed Vaccine Recommendations:

1. Children should be vaccinated at age 12-15 months and again at age 4-6 years. Consider using the earlier intervals at this time to provide protection in the event of an exposure. If a parent/patient requests early vaccination of second dose, the interval is at least 28 days after the first dose.
2. Vaccinate children ages 6 through 11 months, if possibly exposed to measles or traveling internationally. If vaccinated prior to the first birthday, this dose does not count as a part of the routine schedule. Two additional doses should be given after the 1st birthday at least 28 days apart. At this time, early vaccination is recommended only if one of these criteria are met.
3. Providers should assess all person's immunization status and vaccinate pursuant to the routine recommendations at this time. Recall patients who are overdue for a measles vaccine.
4. Vaccinate all adults without evidence of immunity. Adults born prior to 1957 may be immunized with one or two doses of vaccine during an outbreak or traveling internationally.
5. All clinic staff, including office workers, should have documented immunity to measles.

More information can be found at the following websites:

MDHHS: [Michigan.gov/MeaslesOutbreak](https://www.michigan.gov/MeaslesOutbreak)

City of Detroit Measles Fact Sheet: <https://detroitmi.gov/document/measles>

CDC Measles: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

MDHHS Measles Specimen Collection Instructions: <https://detroitmi.gov/document/measles-specimen-collection-instructions>

The Detroit Health Department also offers MMR vaccination at Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner, Detroit, MI 48213. Our hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM; Wednesdays, 9 AM – 6 PM; and Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM. For any questions, please contact the Detroit Health Department Immunizations Program at 313-876-IMMS (4667).

Sincerely,

Joneigh S. Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director and Health Officer

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