



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

Public Health
Division

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: All Healthcare Providers in Santa Cruz County
From: Arnold S. Leff, MD, REHS, County Public Health Officer
Subject: Measles in San Francisco Bay Area
Date: April 10, 2018

Between 3/5/18 and 4/3/18, measles has been confirmed in six (6) unvaccinated patients who are residents of Santa Clara County (5) and Alameda County (1). One additional linked case has been confirmed in Nevada. All cases are linked to an unvaccinated traveler who was exposed in Europe and developed measles after returning to the San Francisco Bay Area. Local health departments in the Bay Area are conducting contact investigations. Measles is very infectious, and airborne transmission can occur in settings with large numbers of people like healthcare facilities, schools, childcares, shopping centers, public transportation, airports, and amusement parks. Clinicians should be vigilant in identifying and appropriately managing suspected measles cases to avoid ongoing transmission and ensuring that their patients and staff are up-to-date with immunizations

Clinicians are requested to:

- 1. Consider/suspect measles** in patients with a rash and fever $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38.3°C) regardless of travel history. Ask about measles vaccination and exposure to known measles cases, international travel, or international visitors in the three weeks prior to illness.
- 2. Prepare your facility for the possibility of patients with measles.** Ask patients to call ahead first if they have fever and rash. [Post signage \(http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-908.pdf\)](http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-908.pdf) that directs patients with fever and rash to notify staff. Train staff to immediately implement airborne precautions if measles is suspected.
 - Mask and isolate the patient in an airborne isolation room
 - Do not re-use exam room for at least one hour after the patient has left the room
 - Assure airborne precautions at other healthcare facilities if referring the patient
- 3. Report suspected measles cases immediately to the Santa Cruz Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (CDU) by phone at 831-454-4114 before you send the patient home;** after hours or on weekends, contact 831-471-1170 and ask for the Health Officer on-call. **CALL, DO NOT FAX.**
- 4. Test suspected measles cases in consultation with Santa Cruz Public Health CDU (Testing should be done by a public health lab to ensure rapid and accurate results.):**
 - Collect a throat swab (for measles PCR) with a Dacron swab and place in Viral Transport Media
 - Collect a urine specimen (for measles PCR) in any container (does not need to be sterile)
 - Draw blood (for measles IgM and IgG) if and only if it is already Day 4 or later after rash onset
 - Collecting specimens while the patient is at your facility will prevent delays in confirmation and limit the potential for additional healthcare visits/exposures.
 - Please HOLD specimens for testing by public health.
- 5. Advise patients with suspected measles to stay home with no visitors** until at least four days after rash onset and/or until cleared by Santa Cruz Public Health CDU to resume normal activities. Patients should go home by private vehicle, not take public transportation.
- 6. Confirm immunity of health care staff** with unknown vaccination status by ordering Measles IgG only. *Confirm staff immunity now to avoid staff exclusion from work in the event of an exposure.*
- 7. Vaccinate children and non-immune adults,** unless contraindicated, according to national guidelines.

Additional measles resources:

- Contact the Communicable Disease Unit at 831-454-4114
- CDC: www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/measles.aspx>

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.



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Santa Cruz County