



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health Division

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HEALTH ALERT POTENTIAL MEASLES EXPOSURE

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Dear Napa County Physicians and Healthcare Providers,

There have been 4 cases of measles diagnosed in the San Francisco Bay Area within the last two weeks:

- One in an older adult who traveled to Europe, and two others in unvaccinated toddlers who traveled to Europe and Asia.
- The 4th case of measles was confirmed in an unvaccinated adult San Francisco (SF) resident last week. The SF confirmed case had no travel history, and no known link to the other 3 cases.
- An additional adult SF case was confirmed in December 2009 without a travel history or known link to other cases, but who worked in a setting with international travelers.
- The 2 recent adult cases presented with mild illness, thus measles was not high on their clinician's differential diagnosis when they first presented to health care.

In addition to multiple cases with international exposures to endemic countries, the San Francisco case who lacks a travel history raises a concern that there may be transmission locally. Measles is extremely contagious and can cause life threatening illness in susceptible individuals. All Bay Area physicians are requested to be alert for additional cases of measles.

To minimize the risk of measles transmission in healthcare settings, clinicians should:

- Suspect measles in patients with mild or significant febrile rash illness.
- Measles should be suspected not only in patients with febrile rash illness who have a history of international travel or contact with international visitors in the prior 3 weeks, but also in patients without known international exposures.
- Implement **airborne precautions** immediately for all patients with **fever and measles-like (morbilliform) rash: isolate and provide** a face mask for the patient to wear.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

- Notify Napa County Public Health immediately of any suspect measles patients.
 - **Phone: (707) 299 -1499**
 - **Fax: (707) 299 - 4479**
- Limit the number of individuals exposed to the patient.
- Restrict healthcare workers and visitors without evidence of immunity (documented administration of 2 doses of live measles vaccine, laboratory evidence of immunity, year of birth before 1957 or documentation of physician-diagnosed measles) from entering the patient's room.
- Place suspect measles patients in an examination room, preferably an airborne infection isolation room, as soon as possible—they should not remain in patient waiting areas. Such patients should be seen at the end of the day, if possible.
- Keep the door to the examination room closed.
- Do not use the examination room for at least two hours after the possibly infectious patient leaves.
- Do not refer suspect measles patients to other locations for clinical evaluation or laboratory testing unless infection control measures can be implemented at those locations.
- Send specimens to the local health department for testing. Do not send to a commercial laboratory for testing.
- Ensure that all healthcare workers have evidence of measles immunity.

International Travel:

Providers should make sure that patients travelling outside of the U.S. are up to date on all routine vaccinations. Children between 6-11 months who are travelling or live outside of the U.S. should receive a dose of measles containing vaccine prior to departure. This dose will not count towards the routine MMR series. Such children should receive the normal 2 doses of MMR, the first dose being administered between 12-15 months and the second dose administered at least 28 days later.

For more information on measles, please visit www.countyofnapa.org/CDhealthalerts.

Thank you for working with us to protect the health of Napa County residents.



Karen Smith, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer