

Health Advisory: Measles Outbreak Expanded Recommendations

Minnesota Department of Health Thursday, May 4, 2017, 13:00 CDT

Action Steps: Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals, urgent care centers, clinics, school nurses, EMS, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospital and clinics: Please distribute to health care providers who treat patients presenting with new illness.

Health care providers:

- Implement expanded MMR immunization recommendations during Minnesota's measles outbreak.
- Check MIIC (Minnesota's immunization registry) records before vaccinating.
- Report suspected cases and contact MDH with questions at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414.

Changes to the MMR vaccination recommendation. Changes to the vaccine recommendations have been made due to the geographical spread of the outbreak. The primary changes include the following:

- The accelerated two-dose MMR series recommendation has been expanded to include children and adolescents residing in counties in which a measles case has been reported in the previous 42 days.
- Acceleration of the two-dose MMR series **may** be considered for children and adolescents regardless of county of residence.
- Be sure to assess measles immune status for every patient at every visit, regardless of age.

A link to the full updated recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/outbrkvax.html>. Please note: adult MMR recommendations remain unchanged. All adults born in 1957 or later should have documentation of at least one MMR.

Outbreak update. Since April 11, 2017, 41 cases of measles have been identified in Minnesota. Cases are located in Hennepin, Ramsey and Crow Wing counties. Cases in Crow Wing and Ramsey Counties had likely exposure in Hennepin County. Overall, the majority of cases have been linked to known cases. Case counts and demographics of the outbreak are routinely updated on MDH's website at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/#Example1>

Check vaccination history. Administer MMR and varicella vaccines on the same day (either separately or as MMRV) or at least 28 days apart. Before giving a MMR vaccine, check MIIC records and ask parents whether any vaccines have been administered in the previous 4 weeks to ensure no MMR doses are administered less than 28 days from previous MMR, varicella or MMRV. If a parent-reported vaccination is not found in MIIC, verify administration by requesting documentation from the parent or administering clinic. Provide patients with written documentation of vaccines administered.

Recalling patients. MIIC can help identify children who have not received a dose of MMR. Please contact your [MIIC Regional Coordinator](#) (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/registry/map.html) or email the MIIC Help Desk at health.miichelp@state.mn.us for assistance.

Find additional information at [Measles Information for Health Professionals](#) (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html).

Remember to obtain specimens from symptomatic patients for PCR testing. Measles should be suspected in any person with fever and rash. In general, testing should be performed after the onset of rash to reduce the possibility of false-negative results. If an individual's exposure history and symptoms are concerning for measles, but rash has not yet appeared, contact MDH (651-201-5414) for assistance regarding testing decisions. See [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory](#) (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html) for more information.

A copy of this HAN is available in PDF and Word format at www.health.state.mn.us/han. The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.