

Health Advisory: Third Travel-Associated Measles Case

Minnesota Department of Health Fri September 14 10:00 CDT 2018

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals, urgent care centers, clinics, and convenience clinics in **Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington** counties.

Hospitals, clinics, and other facilities: Please distribute to health care providers who treat patients presenting with new illness.

Health care providers:

- Consider measles in patients presenting with clinically compatible symptoms between **now** and **October 5**.
- Be alert to symptoms of measles disease in returning international travelers or patients who have been in contact with persons recently returning from overseas travel.
- Assess MMR status of your patients and vaccinate susceptible persons according to routine MMR recommendations.
- Isolate suspected measles cases: See [Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings \(www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html).
- Obtain throat and urine specimens for PCR: See [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory \(www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html). If tested too early, false negatives may occur.
- Report suspected cases and contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414 with questions

A case of laboratory-confirmed measles has been identified in a 2 year-old resident of Ramsey County who recently returned from a trip to the Middle East. The child had a history of 1 age-appropriate dose of MMR vaccine. Measles was laboratory confirmed by PCR at the Minnesota Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory. The patient's clinical symptoms included coryza, conjunctivitis, fever, and rash. Of note, this patient's rash was not the classically described measles rash, but instead resembled the rash associated with hand, foot and mouth disease.

Rash onset occurred on September 10, 2018. The case is considered infectious from September 6 through September 14, 2018. **Secondary cases in Minnesota would be expected to have onset between now and October 5.**

Exposures mainly occurred in health care settings in Ramsey County. There is little risk of exposure to the general public. Exposed individuals (contacts) who can be identified are being notified and given information about how to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis, if indicated. Providers are encouraged to call MDH if there is any question about whether an individual should receive post-exposure prophylaxis or how to obtain it.

This is the third travel-related case of measles confirmed in Minnesota since August. Health care providers are encouraged to be on high alert for measles among patients returning from recent

HEALTH ADVISORY: THIRD TRAVEL-ASSOCIATED MEASLES CASE

international travel to endemic or outbreak areas (including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America).

A poster about the importance of getting vaccinated for measles before traveling internationally is available in several languages through MDH at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html>

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

A copy of this HAN is available at: <http://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.