



Department of Health Services
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

HEALTH ALERT

January 24, 2011

Measles Alert

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Health Officer

CONFIRMED CASE OF MEASLES IN BERKELEY

Please distribute to all providers in your practice.

Current Situation

There has been a confirmed case of measles in Berkeley. Others have likely been exposed, so you may see additional cases of measles in your practice. **We rely on your prompt diagnosis and reporting to assist us in controlling the spread of measles in our community.**

Because measles is extremely contagious and can be life threatening to susceptible individuals, **we recommend the following actions:**

Diagnosis

- **Be alert** for cases of measles. **Consider measles in any patient with fever and rash.** Conjunctivitis is also a common presenting symptom.
- Clinicians unfamiliar with clinical measles should consult the websites below for description and photos.
- **Implement airborne precautions promptly** for all patients with **fever and measles-like (morbilliform) rash: isolate** and provide a **face mask** for the patient to wear. Review the symptoms of measles (e.g., cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, fever, morbilliform rash) with your staff. At triage, promptly screen and isolate patients with fever and rash – they should *not* spend any time in your waiting room.
- If notified in advance, evaluate patients with suspected measles outdoors. Instruct patients and arrange for them to be seen without coming into contact with other patients.

Reporting

- **If you SUSPECT a case of measles**, please **report it immediately** to the **Berkeley Public Health Division** at (510) 981-5300.
- **DO NOT WAIT FOR LABORATORY CONFIRMATION** before reporting the case.

Testing

- Coordinate **diagnostic testing** with Berkeley Public Health by calling (510) 981-5300.

Vaccinating

- Take every opportunity to **ensure that your patients are up-to-date with their MMR vaccinations.**
- We recommend offering MMR to any of your staff who may be susceptible as well.

Sources for Information

- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>
- City of Berkeley Public Health Division: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH):
[CDPH Measles Information](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx) at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx>
[CDPH Measles "Quicksheet" pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/MeaslesInvestigationQuicksheet.pdf) at:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/MeaslesInvestigationQuicksheet.pdf>
[CDPH Clinical Presentation of Measles](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/IMM-908.pdf) at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/IMM-908.pdf>

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