



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Health Alert September 1, 2015

Measles Update

Current Situation:

The City of Berkeley has confirmed a case of measles in a UC Berkeley student. The Public Health Division is working with UC and with the California Department of Public Health to identify and notify contacts and encourage them to be immunized if they are not already immune. The student spent time at many public venues during the infectious period, and it is not possible to identify every individual who may have been exposed.

We are requesting that you be alert to the possibility of measles in patients of any age who have fever and a rash, and report any suspected measles case immediately to City of Berkeley Public Health Communicable Disease Program.

Actions Requested of Healthcare professionals:

- 1. WATCH for measles symptoms – Consider measles in patients of any age who have *a fever AND a rash* regardless of their travel history. Mask anyone with fever and rash.** Please note that although documentation of receipt of two doses of MMR vaccine or a prior positive measles IgG test result makes the diagnosis of measles less likely, **measles can still occur in such persons.**
- 2. IMMEDIATELY REPORT suspect** measles cases to Berkeley Public Health by calling 510-981-5300. **Do not wait for lab confirmation to call us.** After hours, or if you do not reach us at that number, the Public Health Officer can be reached at 510-981-5911 (Berkeley Police Dispatch).
- 3. TEST** – order measles serologic testing (IgM and IgG) and nasopharyngeal, throat and urine specimens for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and viral culture. To expedite testing and decrease delay in diagnosis, coordinate specimen handling with Berkeley Public Health 510-981-5300. **Do not send specimens to a commercial lab.**
- 4. IMPLEMENT airborne precautions immediately,** and mask and isolate patient (negative pressure room if available). Do not use any regular exam room for at least 2 hours after a suspected measles patient has left the room.
- 5. ADVISE** patient to stay home until contacted by Berkeley Public Health.

6. Ensure your staff and patients are up-to-date on their vaccinations against measles.

Two doses of measles-containing vaccine (MMR vaccine) are more than 99% effective in preventing measles. The first dose is routinely given at 12-15 months of age, with the second dose at age 4-6 years. Consider giving the second dose earlier as a prevention strategy; the second dose may be given as early as 28 days after the first dose.

Sources for Information:

California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx>

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPHMeaslesInvestigationQuicksheet.pdf>

Testing:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPHMeaslesLabTesting2011-01.pdf>

Please distribute to all providers in your practice