



Health Housing & Comm. Serv.
Public Health Division

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Measles Health Alert- April 30, 2019

Measles is a highly contagious vaccine-preventable viral disease which is currently widespread in many parts of the world including Europe, Africa, and Asia. We now have 704 documented cases of measles in 22 states in the US. This is the greatest number of cases reported since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000. As of April 24, 2019, 38 confirmed measles cases have been reported to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This is an increase from 11 cases around this time in 2018 with 19 cases diagnosed in April 2019 alone. Of all cases reported in 2019, 37% were international travelers and 58% were related to transmission from travelers to persons in California. The 2019 international travel cases include travel to India, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, and the Ukraine. There are currently no cases in the City of Berkeley or Alameda County.

Clinicians are requested to:

- 1. Vaccinate** your patients against measles. Prioritize those that are traveling abroad. **Vaccinate children and non-immune adults**, unless contraindicated, according to [CDC guidelines](#).
- 2. Prepare your office for a measles exposure.** Make sure you know staff's immunity and ensure that those non-immune are vaccinated. When patients call to make appointments, screen them for fever and rash. **Post signage** that instructs patients with fever and rash to notify staff. Train staff to immediately implement airborne precautions if measles is suspected:
 - Mask and isolate the patient in an airborne isolation room
 - Do not re-use exam room **for at least one hour** after the patient has left the room
 - Assure airborne precautions at other healthcare facilities if referring the patient
- 3. Know how to identify measles** and what to do. **Symptoms plus risk factors should make you suspect measles:**
Symptoms:
 - a. High fever
 - b. Rash that appears on the face at the hairline and spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet
 - c. Usually 1 or 2 of the "3 Cs" – cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis**Risk factors:**
 - a. In the prior 3 weeks: travel outside of North America, transit through US international airports, interaction with foreign visitors, including at tourist attractions, or travel to areas of the US with ongoing measles transmission
 - b. Never immunized with measles vaccineSee [City of Berkeley Health Alert](#) from April 3, 2019 for additional clinical guidance.

Report immediately, while the patient is still in your office, to the Berkeley Communicable Disease Program by phone at 510-981-5292; after hours call 510-981-5911 and ask for the Public Health Officer on call.

Additional resources:

- CDC Guidance for healthcare professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp>
- CDPH Measles Information: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/measles.aspx
- CDPH Clinical Guidance: <http://tinyurl.com/y6bkg4ea>