



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DISEASE CONTROL & EPIDEMIOLOGY

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Measles Advisory

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Recent cases of measles (rubeola) in Orange County and elsewhere in the United States highlight the ongoing risk of measles due to importations and rapid spread within susceptible subgroups of the U.S. population. Please post the attached "Fever and Rash...Consider Measles" flyer in a visible place. This flyer is also available at www.ochcahealthinfo.com/epi/measles.

Measles is a highly contagious disease transmitted by respiratory droplets and through the airborne route. The illness can result in severe complications including pneumonia and encephalitis. The incubation period is 7-18 days. People are infectious from four (4) days before until four (4) days after rash onset.

Measles importations into the U.S. can occur at any time. Measles is now widespread in Western Europe because immunization rates have declined. Measles is also circulating in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Orange County Public Health urges clinicians to:

- 1. Consider measles in patients with febrile rash illness;**
- 2. Assure that patients, their families, and your staff members are fully vaccinated; and**
- 3. Use appropriate infection-control practices to prevent transmission in health-care settings.**

All suspect cases of measles should be isolated immediately and reported to Public Health at 714-834-8180. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report to Public Health. Airborne and standard precautions should be instituted. Only immune healthcare workers (HCW) should care for these patients. Definition of immunity for a healthcare worker:

1. Positive serum IgG to measles, OR
2. History of measles based on health care provider diagnosis, OR
3. Birth before 1957, OR
4. Two doses of measles-containing vaccine (usually given as MMR) since HCW are at higher risk of measles exposure.

NOTE: During an outbreak, unvaccinated healthcare personnel born before 1957 who do not have serologic evidence of immunity or physician documentation of measles disease should receive one dose of MMR vaccine.

For more information on measles, see *Measles Information for Health Care Providers*, available at www.ochcahealthinfo.com/epi/measles or the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm.