Measles Confirmed in Indiana Resident — Exposures Identified at Chicago Hospitals
February 23, 2024

Summary and Action Items

- A case of measles has been confirmed in a northwest Indiana resident.
- This resident received care at three Chicago hospitals during their contagious period.
- Clinicians should be vigilant for signs and symptoms of measles in their patients.
- Providers should notify Chicago Department of Public Health (CPDH) immediately upon suspicion of measles. Do not wait on testing before notifying CDPH.

BACKGROUND: The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) has confirmed a case of measles in a northwest Indiana resident. (See attached Indiana Health Alert Network Notification). This resident received medical care at three Chicago hospitals while contagious during February 11–16. Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is in close contact with IDOH, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and leadership at these three hospitals to identify and notify anyone exposed. No additional exposure locations have been identified in Chicago or Illinois.

Clinicians should be alert for measles in any patient with a febrile rash and conjunctivitis, cough, coryza (cold symptoms), and/or malaise. Patients with suspected measles should immediately be masked and placed in an airborne isolation room. Ask patients about their history of vaccination, and about any history of international or domestic travel, contact with foreign visitors, or possible exposure to a measles patient in the 3 weeks prior to symptom onset. Prodromal symptoms usually begin 8–12 days after exposure, and rash onset begins 14 days (range 7–21 days) after exposure.

REPORTING: Providers, hospitals, and laboratories should notify CDPH immediately upon any suspicion of measles. Do not wait on testing before notifying CDPH; any delay in notification might result in avoidable exposures. To report a suspected case of measles to CDPH, call 312-743-9000 during business hours and select option 2. During after-hours, weekends, holidays, or if you are unsuccessful using the number above, call 311 (or 312-744-5000 if outside the City of Chicago) and request the CDPH medical director on-call.

TESTING: Call CDPH immediately upon suspicion of measles to discuss testing. Serology testing alone is insufficient for diagnosis. IDPH laboratory provides PCR testing for measles at no cost to the patient or provider. Measles testing should be conducted at the state lab as testing at commercial laboratories can delay results.

VACCINATING: Ensure your patients are up-to-date on measles vaccination. One dose of MMR vaccine is approximately 93% effective at preventing measles; two doses are approximately 97% effective.

For additional details on measles symptoms, specimen collection, and diagnostic testing, please see www.chicagohan.org/measles and the attached Job Aid.