

Health Advisory: Be on Alert for Measles, Cases Continue to Occur in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed, Oct 12 13:00 CDT 2022

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, urgent care centers, clinics, travel clinics and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please distribute to health care providers who treat patients presenting with new illness.

Health care providers:

- Maintain heightened awareness of measles in patients presenting with clinically compatible symptoms between now and October 29, 2022, regardless of travel history.
- Continue to be alert to symptoms of measles disease in returning international travelers or patients who have been in contact with persons recently returning from international travel.
- Assess MMR status of your patients and recall susceptible children to receive MMR vaccination according to routine MMR recommendations.
- Contact the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) to get help recalling overdue patients. A program to text clients is available free of charge to MN providers, as well as other Client Follow Up features in MIIC. (Email: health.miichelp@state.mn.us)
- Isolate suspected measles cases: See [Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html).
- Obtain throat and urine specimens for PCR: See [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html). If tested too early before rash onset, false negatives may occur.
- Report suspected cases and contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414 with questions .

Background

Additional cases of laboratory-confirmed measles have been identified by PCR testing at the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory. The most recent cases are in 2 children who are residents of Ramsey County and who had contact with a family who recently returned from a country where measles is endemic. Both were unvaccinated. The children's clinical symptoms included **fever, cough, congestion, vomiting, and rash**. Rash onset was October 9, 2022. Secondary cases from these two cases in Minnesota would be expected to have onset between now and October 29. Exposures mainly occurred in school, childcare and health care settings in Ramsey & Hennepin counties. Exposed individuals who can be identified are being notified and given information about how to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as indicated. Providers are encouraged to call MDH if there is any question about whether an individual should receive PEP or how to obtain it.

This most recent set of cases brings Minnesota up to a total of **16 travel-related cases of measles** confirmed in Minnesota since June. Health care providers are encouraged to be on high alert for measles among patients returning from recent international travel to endemic or outbreak areas (including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America). A total of 17 cases of measles have now been confirmed in Minnesota, with one case with an unknown source of exposure.

MMR coverage rates have dropped in the general pediatric population since pre-pandemic years. Clinicians are urged to conduct an assessment of MMR status in both younger and school age children and recall those that

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remain unvaccinated. The Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) has tools to assist in this assessment and recall effort. Please see [MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html#population1\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html#population1) for user guidance for these tools. Minnesota providers can also participate in a free texting service that notifies clients of overdue/recommended vaccinations. Please see [Reminder/Recall Using Text Messages \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/remindrecall.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/remindrecall.pdf) for more information.

More Information

- [MDH Think Measles \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html)
A poster about the importance of getting vaccinated for measles before traveling internationally is available in several languages.
- [MDH Measles Information for Health Professionals \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html)
Additional information.
- [CDC: Measles: Plan for Travel \(https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html)
Measles and travel.

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han)
The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.

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