

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department

Health Officer
976 Lenzen Avenue, 2nd Floor
San José, CA 95126



HEALTH ADVISORY: Measles in Santa Clara County and California

DATE: July 18, 2014

TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Infection Control, Hospitals, and Clinics

FROM: Sara H. Cody, MD
Health Officer

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Communicable Disease Controller

A case of measles with rash onset on June 29 has been confirmed in Santa Clara County. This is the second confirmed measles case reported this year in Santa Clara County, and the 61st in California. Both Santa Clara County cases were exposed to measles outside of the U.S. (in the Philippines and in India). The most recent case patient exposed others at an office, an emergency room, a grocery store, and a restaurant. Unfortunately, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department was not notified of this case until July 7, after which the window of opportunity for immediate prevention of spread had passed. At this time, no further cases have been reported, but this serves as a reminder to all clinicians of the continuing risk of measles in Santa Clara County.

Clinicians who have measles on their differential diagnosis should:

- Assess exposure and susceptibility.**
 - Ask about a history of recent travel within the last three weeks. The incubation period is up to 21 days long, and the majority of measles infections are acquired abroad, especially in Asia and Europe. However, measles should be considered in any patient with fever and rash.
 - Ask about history of MMR vaccine or review the patient's vaccination record; however a history of one or even two MMR vaccines does not exclude a measles diagnosis.
- Implement airborne precautions immediately** if you suspect measles.
 - Mask and isolate the patient in airborne isolation room
 - Only permit staff immune to measles to be near the patient
 - 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
- Immediately report the suspected case** to the Santa Clara County Public Health Department at **408-885-4214** (press 1, then 3), as well as to your infection control department. After hours, or on weekends/holidays, call county communications at 408-998-3438 and ask for the Health Officer on call.
- Send specimens** to the Santa Clara County Public Health Lab after calling the above number.
 - Collect a throat swab for measles PCR and place in viral transport media, *and*
 - Collect a urine specimen for measles PCR, *and*
 - Draw blood to test for measles IgM and IgG

For more information about measles clinical presentation, diagnosis, vaccination, testing, and prevention of transmission in healthcare settings, visit <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx> or <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp>, or call the Santa Clara County Public Health Department at **408-885-4214**.

Health ALERT: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health ADVISORY: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health UPDATE: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.