

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: January 20, 2015

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

FROM: Sara H. Cody, MD
Health Officer

George S. Han, MD, MPH
Communicable Disease Controller

A case of measles (rash onset on January 12; infectious period January 8–16) has been confirmed in a Santa Clara County adult with unknown vaccination history and no history of travel outside the Bay Area. This is the first confirmed measles case reported this year in our county; it is one of 53 confirmed cases in California, most of which are linked to the recent Disneyland outbreak. Our case did not travel to Disneyland or internationally, indicating that measles may be circulating undetected in our community despite high vaccination rates in our county. This serves as a reminder to all clinicians of the continuing risk of measles in Santa Clara County.

Clinicians are requested to:

- 1. Prepare your facility for the possibility of patients with measles**
 - Ask patients to call ahead first if they have fever and rash
 - Have signage that direct patients with fever and rash to notify staff immediately (for isolation)
- 2. Consider measles** in anyone with fever and morbilliform rash, which may look like a viral exanthem
- 3. Assess exposure and susceptibility**
 - Ask about travel history within the last three weeks (the maximum measles incubation period); however, since measles may be circulating locally, lack of travel does not exclude measles
 - Ask about history of MMR vaccine or review the patient's vaccination record; however, one or even two MMR vaccines does not exclude a measles diagnosis
- 4. Implement airborne precautions immediately** if you suspect measles
 - Mask and isolate the patient in an 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
- 5. Immediately report any suspected cases** 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.
- 6. 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 clinical presentation, vaccination, testing, and prevention of transmission in healthcare settings, visit www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp, www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx, or www.sccphd.org/diseases and click on Measles.

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.