



January 17, 2019

To: Jefferson County Health Care Providers
From: Thomas Locke, MD, MPH, Jefferson County Health Officer

Health Alert: Measles Outbreak in Clark County, WA

Action requested:

Be aware of 14 confirmed and 3 suspected cases of measles among children in Clark County since January 15th linked to an index case visiting from Europe; 13 cases are unimmunized, one case has unverified immunization status. Multiple public exposures, including PDX airport, multiple clinics, schools, and retail establishments have occurred.

Consider measles infection in patients with compatible symptoms, including:

- Prodrome of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis (the “three C’s”) lasting 2–4 days
- Generalized maculopapular rash that usually begins on the face, spreading to the trunk and extremities
- Koplik spots (white spots on buccal mucosa) may appear on buccal mucosa 1–2 days prior to rash

Assess patients with measles symptoms for recent international travel or travel to Clark County, WA, or to Oregon (see locations at link, below), and/or or potential exposure to a confirmed measles case or exposure location.

Instruct reception/triage staff to identify patients with symptoms of possible measles at presentation.

- Patients with symptoms of measles should wear a mask covering the nose and mouth and should be kept away from patient waiting rooms.
- Room the patient immediately and close the door.
- Only staff with documented measles immunity should be allowed to enter the patient’s room.
- After the patient is discharged, do not use the room for 2 hours.

Report suspected cases of measles to Jefferson County Public Health at (360) 385-9400 immediately, before discharging or transferring patients.

Collect specimens on patients with suspected measles:

- Nasopharyngeal swab (preferred respiratory specimen) for PCR and virus isolation.
- Urine (at least 50 ml) for PCR and virus isolation
- Serum (at least 1 cc) for measles IgM

Call Jefferson County Public Health to arrange expedited testing at the WA State Public Health Lab, do not use a commercial laboratory, 360-385-9400.

Background: Measles outbreaks continue to occur in multiple European countries with over 40,000 cases reported in the first half of 2018 alone. Approximately half of the cases in the WHO European Region have been in Ukraine. There are currently no King County exposure locations.

Resources

- Clark County Public Health web page for current public exposure

locations: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation>

- CDC measles information: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/meas.html>

- Washington Department of Health Measles information:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Measles#AboutMeasles>