

County of Santa Clara

Public Health Department

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



Please copy and distribute to ALL physicians at your location.

HEALTH ADVISORY: Measles in Santa Clara County

DATE: March 7, 2018

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 has been confirmed in an unvaccinated Santa Clara County individual with recent history of travel to Europe. Others may have been exposed from February 28 through March 2. During this time, the patient attended school in Campbell and ate lunch on Friday, March 2 in the food court at Westgate Center, a mall located at 1600 Saratoga Avenue in San Jose. Susceptible individuals exposed at the mall could start showing symptoms of measles as early as Friday, March 9 and until March 23. This is our county's first measles case since January 2017.

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
- 4. Implement airborne precautions immediately** if you suspect measles
 - Mask and isolate the patient in an airborne isolation room
 - 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. If measles is suspected**, call your infectious disease specialist or infection control practitioner (if available), and then contact the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) at 408-885-4214. After hours, 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 only after consulting with SCCPHD.
 - Collect a throat swab (for measles PCR) with a Dacron swab and place in viral transport media
 - Collect a urine specimen (for measles PCR) in any container (does not need to be sterile)
 - Draw blood (for measles IgM and IgG) if and only if it is already Day 4 or later after rash onset
 - Note: If you check measles IgG to confirm immunity in an asymptomatic patient, do not also send an IgM titer, as there is a substantial possibility of a false positive IgM result.

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.