



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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TO: OCEMS DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM: SAM J. STRATTON, MD, MPH
ORANGE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MEASLES ACTIVITY IN ORANGE COUNTY

The following information is provided on behalf of the Orange County Health Care Agency Public Health Department:

Measles (Rubeola) is a highly contagious virus that has the ability to infect susceptible persons who have as limited an exposure as just being in the same room with an infected person. Twenty-one cases of measles have been confirmed in Orange County this year. Five of the confirmed cases have been health care workers who have inadvertently exposed patients and their families to the virus. This health care worker exposure of others has occurred in emergency departments and doctor's offices, with the subsequent need for hundreds of contact investigations. Also, as a result of exposure to an infectious person, dozens of infants, pregnant women, and immunocompromised persons have required quarantine and emergency administration of immune globulin.

It is critical that all health care workers have evidence of immunity to measles (Rubeola), which includes one of the following*:

- Documentation of two doses of measles-containing vaccine (generally given as MMR [measles, mumps, rubella]) separated by at least 28 days, OR
- Documentation of previous laboratory confirmation of disease or immunity (serum measles IgG).

*NOTE: Birth before 1957 is NOT considered evidence of immunity for a health care worker during an outbreak such as is currently occurring in Orange County.

Health care workers with known exposure to a confirmed measles cases will be removed from work by Public Health from days 5 through 21 after exposure unless they have documentation of immunity.

Now is the time for individuals to review their vaccination records and make sure they have documented immunity to measles. If someone does not have documentation of immunity, they should contact their employer Occupational Health provider to see if serologic testing and/or MMR are available or contact their health care provider.

If a person develops fever and rash, they should stay at home and call their doctor or health care provider for instructions to avoid exposing other patients and staff before presenting for medical evaluation. For more information about measles, call Orange County Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 or see <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/disease/measles>.