



**COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH
EPIDEMIOLOGY & ASSESSMENT**

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Measles Cases Identified in Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is investigating nine confirmed measles cases within the County. Contact investigations are ongoing.

No suspect or confirmed measles cases have been identified thus far in Orange County. But providers should consider the diagnosis of measles in patients with an appropriate clinical presentation.

Measles symptoms usually begin 10-12 days (up to 21 days) after exposure with a prodrome with some combination of fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and malaise. Two to four days following prodrome onset, a maculopapular rash develops. The rash usually begins at the hairline or behind the ears and then spreads down to cover the face, trunk, arms, and legs.

Providers should notify Orange County Public Health Epidemiology immediately with any suspect or confirmed cases at 714-834-8180 (714-628-7008 after hours). Measles polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing of throat and urine specimens is sensitive and specific. Measles serum IgM is also a sensitive test for unimmunized patients. The Orange County Public Health Laboratory can assist with expediting testing.

Measles is extremely infectious and is spread by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread. Whenever a potential case of measles is identified, the following infection control practices should be implemented to prevent transmission in health-care settings:

- Utilize airborne and standard precautions. Immediately remove patient from the waiting area and place in an airborne infection (negative pressure) isolation room if available, OR at minimum, in a private room with door closed.
- If possible, allow only healthcare personnel with documentation of two doses of live measles vaccine or laboratory evidence of immunity (measles IgG positive) to enter the patient's room.
- Health care workers who care for suspect measles cases should use respiratory protection at least as effective as an N95 respirator even if they have evidence of immunity.
- Ask patient to wear a surgical mask, if tolerated.

Routine vaccination with two doses of measles-containing vaccine is recommended for all children and is the safest and most effective way to prevent disease.

For more information, see the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Advisory at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp/docs/Measles122316.pdf>.

Providers can find additional information regarding measles infection control, testing, and post-exposure prophylaxis at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx>.