

# ATTENTION

## Public Health Alert

---

The Westchester County Department of Health provides public health updates to members of the medical community on important issues affecting public health in Westchester

DATE: April 30, 2019

SUBJECT: **Measles Risk Assessment, Lab Testing, & Infection Control**

Dear Medical Directors and Infection Control Staff at Urgent Care, Medical Practices and Health Care Facilities

With the increasing number of measles cases and thus the increasing likelihood that a patient with measles may present to your practice or facility, the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDH) is requesting that the below be reviewed with all relevant staff and that you ensure that the below measures are implemented:

- **Immediately use airborne precautions for persons suspected of measles**
- **Risk assessment for measles** – Please prominently post the attached poster for providers in your patient care areas. Perform a thorough risk assessment to determine the likelihood of an individual having measles by obtaining all of the information on the poster and providing it to WCDH.
- **Contact the WCDH at 914-813-5159 M-F 8:30-4:30 or 914-813-5000 24/7** while the patient is still at your facility and maintain the patient on isolation (in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room [AIIR] at your practice or facility, if possible, and at home until cleared by WCDH
- **Lab Testing**
  - Ensure that all of your locations have the following laboratory supplies and that staff are familiar with where these are located:
    - Dacron or other synthetic swabs, viral transport media and sterile urine cups to collect NP swabs and urine for measles PCR
    - Serum separator blood collection tubes for measles serologies (IgM and IgG)
  - Refrigerate and hold all specimens for measles testing at your facility for WCDH pick up and testing at Westchester Public Health Labs on the next working day free of charge. Designate a staff member who can serve as a point of contact for your specimens and provide WCDH with the contact information. Do NOT send these samples to your routine diagnostic testing lab.
- **Fax the complete medical record** for the patient visit of a suspected measles case to 914-813-5182 as soon as available and no later than 8:30 AM of the following working day if visit is off hours.
- Make every effort to **prevent a potentially infectious measles patient from entering your practice or facility:**
  - Have patients with rash and fever call prior to arriving at your practice or facility to permit optimal triage


- If a patient determined to have measles enters your facility, a contact investigation will be required to identify all staff and individuals who shared the same air supply while the patient was in your facility and for 2 hours after the patient leaves your facility. All exposed persons will need to be contacted to establish proof of immunity or get appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). A list of all such individuals – patients, any individuals accompanying such individuals and their contact information **MUST** be compiled to facilitate contacting these individuals.
- **All healthcare staff should have documented measles immunity**
- **For addition resources and guidance**
  - NYSDOH Interim Guidance: Measles Prevention  
<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/Physicians-Interim-Guidance-Measles-Protection-4-18-19.pdf>
  - GNYHA Measles 4/18/19 webinar and slides for health care facilities  
<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=68ee0913-34c8312d-68ecf026-000babda0031-6e31d7842b50ae62&u=https://www.gnyha.org/event/gnyha-measles-conference-call-webinar/>
  - Physician Section of the WCDH website at <https://health.westchestergov.com/physician-corner>

As always, your assistance and co-operation in addressing important public health issues is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



**Sherlita Amler, M.D.**  
Commissioner of Health



**Ada J. Huang, M.D.**  
Deputy Commissioner, Disease Control

Attachments: Measles Risk Assessment Poster

# Measles Risk Assessment

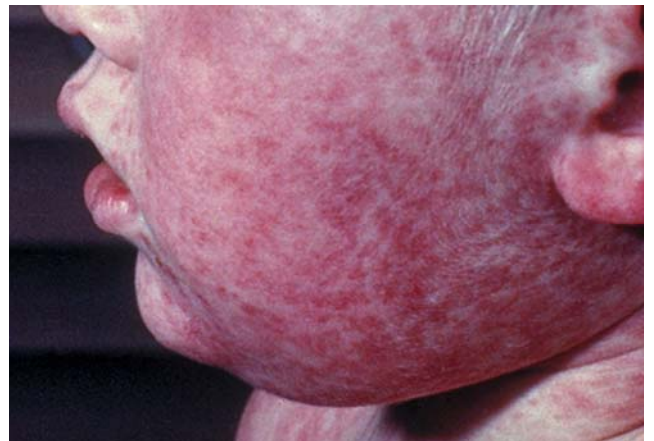
**Start airborne infection control precautions until measles ruled out**

## Determine Level of Clinical Suspicion

Document if the patient:

- **Has received age appropriate MMR vaccine**
  - ◊ Check the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) Immunization Registry and NYC Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR)\*, medical records, or with primary care provider.

*\*Immunization records can be accessed on-line through NYSIIS (Call 866-389-0371, M-F, 8AM – 5PM to set up an account or for assistance) or through the NYC Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) (Call 347-396-2400 to set up an account).*
- **Received a MMR within the past two weeks**
  - ◊ Could this be a vaccine associated rash?
- **Has measles symptoms**
  - ◊ Generalized, maculopapular rash; AND
  - ◊ Temperature  $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; AND
  - ◊ Cough, coryza (runny nose/congestion), or conjunctivitis
- **Attends or works at a childcare facility**
  - ◊ If yes, has there been any rash illness at the childcare?
- **Has an alternate explanation for rash**
  - ◊ Could this be a drug reaction, enterovirus, etc.?
- **Traveled internationally or lived abroad in the past 21 days**
- **Had possible exposure to another measles case**
  - ◊ Is the patient a member of or have known contact with the affected community?
  - ◊ If not, was the patient in a health care facility in the Williamsburg or Borough Park neighborhoods of Brooklyn or the Monsey, Spring Valley or New Square areas of Rockland County?



**If the patient is appropriately vaccinated, does NOT have all of the above clinical findings, has NOT traveled or lived internationally, has no exposure to the affected communities, or has an alternate explanation for rash, the suspicion for measles is low. Please specify the leading diagnosis.**

**For more information:**

**Contact the WCDH at 914-813-5159 M-F 8:30-4:30 or 914-813-5000 24/7  
[www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health)**