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Multi-State Measles Outbreak, January 2015

Key Points and Recommendations

- There is currently a multi-state Measles outbreak occurring related to exposure at a Disneyland Resort Theme Park in California.
- Providers should ensure all patients are up to date on MMR and other vaccines.
- Consider measles as a diagnosis in anyone with a febrile rash illness and clinically compatible symptoms (cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis) in patients with a compatible travel history.
- Isolate suspect measles cases patients and immediately report cases to NH DPHS at 271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).
- To test for measles, the following specimens should be obtained and submitted to NH Public Health Laboratories:
 - Oropharyngeal, nasopharyngeal, or nasal swab for polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
 - Serum for IgM serology

Background

On January 23, 2015, the CDC issued [HAN00376](#) advising of a multi-state measles outbreak associated with travel to Disneyland Resort Theme Parks in California. Since the beginning of January 2015, there have been 84 cases of Measles identified in 14 states, and of these cases, 67 have been linked to an initial exposure in December at Disneyland or Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, California. Other states affected by the outbreak include Utah, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Nebraska, and Arizona.

NH DPHS recommends that any patient with a measles compatible illness who has recently visited venues where international travelers congregate, such as theme parks, airports, etc., be considered to have a plausible exposure to measles.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness. It begins with a prodrome of fever, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis lasting 2-4 days prior to rash onset. Measles can cause severe health complications including pneumonia, encephalitis, and death. Measles is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing; infected people are contagious from 4 days before their rash starts through 4 days afterwards. After an infected person leaves a location, the virus remains viable for up to 2 hours on surfaces and in the air. Vaccination is the best method of protection against measles. New Hampshire does not have any cases of measles at this time.

Additional Information

CDC HAN00376 U.S. Multi-state Measles Outbreak, December 2014-January 2015, 1/23/15
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00376.asp>

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

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