



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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AUGUST 21, 2018

### Measles Exposure in Marin

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[www.marincounty.org/hhs](http://www.marincounty.org/hhs)

Dear Colleagues:

This update provides information about a recent measles exposure in Marin County. Disease recognition, testing, reporting procedures, and additional resources for clinicians. There are currently no reported cases of measles in Marin County. Marin County Health and Human Services' (HHS) Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC) unit is monitoring the situation.

### Current Situation

A Contra Costa County resident was diagnosed with lab-confirmed measles last week. During the infectious period (August 6 through August 14, 2018) but prior to diagnosis, the resident visited popular attractions and restaurants in the San Francisco Bay Area and across California, including Marin County and Los Angeles.

The patient was in Marin County on August 13, 2018 and visited Muir Woods, including the gift shop and cafe, and the restaurant Scoma's Sausalito. Marin HHS' CDPC unit is working with the National Park Service (NPS) and Scoma's Sausalito to identify and contact individuals with known exposure. Measles is very infectious, and airborne transmission can occur in indoor and outdoor settings. Members of the public without known contact may have been exposed. Any secondary cases related to this exposure may develop disease through September 4 (incubation period 7-21 days after exposure). Therefore, clinicians should be vigilant in identifying, appropriately managing, and reporting suspected measles cases to Public Health. These actions will help prevent ongoing transmission of disease.

### Actions Requested of Providers

- 1. Consider/suspect measles** in patients with a rash and fever  $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) regardless of travel history. Ask about measles vaccination and exposure to known measles cases, which includes visiting Muir Woods or Scoma's Sausalito on August 13 or recent travel to Los Angeles (August 8 – 10).
- 2. Prepare your facility for the possibility of patients with measles.** [Post signage](#) that directs patients with fever and rash to notify staff. Train staff to immediately implement airborne precautions if measles is suspected.
  - 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

- Review [Healthcare Facility Infection Control Recommendations for Suspect Measles Patients March 2014](#) (California Department of Public Health)
3. **Report** suspected measles cases immediately by phone (not fax) to Marin County Communicable Disease Prevention and Control by phone at 415 473 4163, Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM; after hours, call 415 499 7237 and ask for the Public Health Officer On-Call.
  4. **Test** suspected measles cases in consultation with Marin County CDPC:
    - Collect a throat swab (for measles PCR) with a Dacron swab and place in Viral Transport Media (preferred)
    - Collect a urine specimen (for measles PCR) in any container (does not need to be sterile) (preferred)
    - Draw blood (for measles IgM and IgG) if at least four days have passed since rash onset.
    - Details on specimen collection, storage and shipment can be found at [CDPH Measles Lab Testing](#)
    - Please HOLD specimens for testing by Public Health Lab and contact Marin CDPC for testing approval
  5. **Advise patients with suspected measles to stay home with no visitors** until at least four days after rash onset and cleared by Marin County CDPC to resume normal activities. Patients should go home by private vehicle, not take public transportation, and should only be accompanied by someone immune to measles.
  6. **Confirm immunity of contacts and health care staff** with unknown vaccination status by ordering Measles IgG only. Do not order measles IgM testing for asymptomatic individuals as there is a substantial possibility of a false positive IgM result. *Confirming staff immunity now (written documentation of at least two doses of MMR; or serologic testing) can avoid staff exclusion from work in the event of an exposure.*
  7. **Vaccinate children and non-immune adults**, unless contraindicated, according to national guidelines.

#### **Additional Information**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Measles \(Rubeola\)](#)  
California Department of Public Health (CDPH). [Measles \(Rubeola\)](#)

Sincerely,

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