

# MEASLES IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS



**Marion County**  
OREGON  
Health & Human Services

## GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND INFECTION PREVENTION STAFF

### WHAT TO DO IF A PATIENT IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE MEASLES

- 1) If a patient is presenting to an in person visit and measles is suspected, implement infection control procedures:
  - Airborne isolation precautions should be followed stringently.
  - All staff should be masked - preferably in a fitted N-95 mask.
  - All staff caring for the client should have proof of MMR vaccine or immunity.
  - The client should be masked and spend as little time as possible in the waiting room around other patients.
  - Client should enter/exit through a back or side door if possible.
  - The client should be seen in a negative pressure room if available. If not available, they should be seen in a room that can be kept closed and unoccupied for 2 hours after the client leaves.
- 2) Test - Collect specimens *\*See Page 2 for additional details on testing.*
  - PCR - Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) or Throat swab
  - Serum for IgG and IgM
- 3) Recommend that case stay at home and away from others until labs have resulted.
- 4) Call Marion County communicable disease (24/7) at 503-588-5621 to report suspect case and have the following information readily available to provide to the local public health authority (LPHA):
  - Have they traveled or had visitors in the past 21 days?
  - Do they know someone else with a rash and fever?
  - Have they had a cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis?
  - Where and when did the rash begin?
  - Did or do they have a fever?
  - Have they had antibiotics in the past week?
  - How many measles containing vaccines have they received and when?

**IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS, OR YOU NEED TO REPORT A SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASE, CALL MARION COUNTY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (24/7) AT 503-588-5621.**

## TESTING

- 1) If a patient is suspected to have measles, Marion County communicable disease will contact the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to get approval for PCR testing through the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL).
- 2) If **approved** by OHA Marion County will contact ordering provider to inform of approval to send PCR to OSPHL. IgM and IgG specimens should be sent to a commercial laboratory.
- 3) If testing is **not approved** through OSPHL, send all (PCR, IgG, IgM) specimens to a commercial laboratory.
- 4) Upon receipt of positive lab results, report immediately to Marion County communicable disease.

**DO NOT SEND SPECIMENS TO OSPHL WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY OHA/LPHA.  
OSPHL WILL NOT PROCESS THESE AND SPECIMENS WILL BE DESTROYED  
WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.**

## IF A POSITIVE CASE IS IDENTIFIED IN A HEALTHCARE SETTING

- 1) Health care facilities are responsible to do their own contact tracing, notification and management.
  - Close contacts are considered any staff or clients that spent time indoors with the case, within ten meters of the case, and/or within 20 minutes of the case being there.
  - Contacts should be reached as soon as possible to assess immunization status, assess for signs/symptoms and determine if they need prophylaxis, vaccine, work/school exclusion, or quarantine.
  - Infants <12 months of age, pregnant women without evidence of measles immunity, and severely immunocompromised persons should receive IG.
  - Susceptible persons exposed to a case should be advised to stay home during days 5-21 after exposure.
  - Those with one MMR should be advised to receive another MMR as soon as possible and watch for symptoms for 21 days after the exposure date; they should be informed that if they work at a school, daycare, or healthcare, they will be excluded for 21 days after the exposure date but do not need to quarantine from unrelated activities.
  - Those fully immunized should be advised to watch for symptoms for 21 days after exposure.

## REPORTING

- Physicians are required to report all cases (**including suspected cases**) **immediately** per OAR 333-018-0018.
- Labs are required to report all measles-specific positive tests (e.g., IgM, virus isolation, PCR) **immediately, day or night** per OAR 333-018-0018.

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