



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



# HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

## ! ALERT !



TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers, Emergency Rooms

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### RE: **Laboratory-confirmed measles case in Douglas County with exposures in public locations**

Four cases of measles have been identified among siblings unvaccinated against measles and visiting Douglas County, Nebraska. Epidemiologic investigation has identified several public exposures to measles in our community. Exposure to measles is defined as sharing the same air space with a person with measles during their contagious period (4 days before to 4 days after rash onset) for any period of time.

The first case is laboratory-confirmed with a positive measles IgM test and occurred in a 7 year-old who developed symptom onset of fever on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The child developed cough and coryza on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and conjunctivitis, photophobia, diarrhea, and rash on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Possible exposures related to this case include:

- **Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo on Friday, May 7 (the day of the grand opening of the Madagascar Exhibit)**
- **HyVee Grocery Store at 156th and Maple Streets on Friday morning, May 7 (before noon), Omaha**
- **St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Catholic Church, Omaha morning mass on both Friday, May 7 and Sunday, May 9**
- **Target Store at 132<sup>nd</sup> and Maple, Omaha on Thursday, May 6 (after 7pm) and Saturday, May 8 (after 4pm)**

**\*Expected onset of symptoms for illness linked to exposure at these sites would be 5/17-5/19.**

Three unvaccinated siblings of the first case-patient developed symptoms consistent with measles on Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Douglas County Health Department has been in close contact with the family and has identified several exposures that occurred with one of the siblings **on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>, between 4 pm and 8 pm**, less than 24 hours before symptom onset. The child had no symptoms at that time.

The locations were:

- **Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Oakview Mall, 144th and West Center Road, Omaha**
- **Half Price Books, Westwood Plaza, 120th and West Center Road, Omaha**

- **Borders Bookstore, 132nd and West Maple Street, Omaha**
- **KFC, just north of 132nd and West Center Road, Omaha**

**\*Expected onset of symptoms for illness linked to exposure at these sites would be 5/26.**

**At this time, we would anticipate measles cases in susceptible persons with exposures to these locations only. Currently, it is too early for contacts of persons at these locations to become ill.**

#### **Action Steps for Health Care Providers:**

- Be vigilant about measles. Your expert eye and diagnostic skills can make a difference in stopping the spread of measles in our community.
- Consider measles in patients of any age who have a fever AND a rash. Fever can spike as high as 105°F. Measles rashes are red, blotchy and maculopapular and typically start on the hairline and face and then spread downwards to the rest of the body.
- Obtain a thorough history on such patients, including: the above exposures or travel outside of North America or contact with international travelers in the prior three weeks; and prior vaccinations for measles.
- If you suspect your patient has measles, isolate the patient immediately and alert your local health department as soon as possible. The risk of measles transmission to others can be reduced if control measures are implemented.
- Laboratory Testing: Serologic testing with measles IgM and acute/convalescent IgG testing should be performed. If the patient is uninsured, contact your local health department to see if arrangements for testing can be made through the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory.
- Incubation period is 10 days (range 7-18 d) to onset of illness, and 14 days (max 21 days) to onset of rash. Communicability is 4 days before to 4 days after onset of rash.

Public health authorities established a 2-dose MMR vaccine schedule (ideally at 15 mos and 4-6 years) in 1990, and schools established documentation of 2 doses of MMR as a criteria for school entry around that time. Most persons under 35 years of age who were compliant with school entry requirements have had two doses of MMR and have a very low risk of developing measles if exposed. Persons who were non-compliant with that requirement are at high risk if exposed to a person shedding the measles virus. All persons who have not received two doses of MMR are urged to consider vaccination at this time, especially if they were present at the times and locations specified.

#### **Preventing measles transmission in healthcare settings**

To prevent transmission of measles in healthcare settings, airborne infection control precautions (available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html>) should be followed stringently. **Suspected measles patients (i.e., persons with febrile rash illness) should be removed from emergency department and clinic waiting areas as soon as they are identified, placed in a private room with the door closed, and asked to wear a surgical mask, if tolerated. In hospital settings, patients with suspected measles should be placed immediately in an airborne infection (negative-pressure) isolation room if one is available and, if possible, should not be sent to other parts of the hospital for examination or testing purposes.**

#### **Selected useful resources for health care professionals**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ Immunization Action Coalition
  - [http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts\\_mmr.asp](http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_mmr.asp)
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>
- California Department of Public Health
  - <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Measles.aspx>