



Public Health Alert

April 8, 2009

Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department MEASLES IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

A statewide Health Alert has been issued in Pennsylvania. The Allegheny County Health Department and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh confirmed on April 3, 2009, that they have four confirmed cases of measles. Because of our proximity to Pittsburgh and the mobility of our population, we are notifying our providers.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF ALL CLINICIANS:

1. Be alert for cases of measles. Healthcare professionals should have a high index of suspicion for the diagnosis of measles in any individual who presents with fever, rash and cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis, especially those with no history of vaccination or who may have been inadequately vaccinated.
2. Advise suspect cases of measles NOT to attend public places (such as work, school, child care, etc.) until 4 days after the rash.
3. Notify the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department immediately if you have a suspected case of measles.
4. Labs needed to confirm diagnosis are a positive serologic test for measles immunoglobulin M antibody, or significant rise in measles antibody level by any standard serologic assay, or isolation of measles virus from a clinical specimen
5. To prevent transmission of measles in healthcare settings, staff should be vigilant about recognizing measles-compatible rash illness in patients. Such patients should be removed from the waiting room ASAP and asked to wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) for source containment.

MEASLES IMMUNITY

Persons are considered immune to measles if:

- They were born prior to 1957; or
- They have written documentation with dates of vaccine administration of age appropriate vaccination (one dose for children 1 – 4 years); 2 doses of measles containing vaccine for others born after 1968 (school & college students, healthcare personnel) separated by at least 28 days, with the first dose on or after their first birthday; or
- They have a positive antibody (IgG) test for measles; or
- A history of physician diagnosed measles.

Please post or deliver this advisory to all applicable healthcare providers in your organization. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department at 304.234.3682 or visit our website at www.ohiocountyhealth.com.