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HEALTH Advisory

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To all Logan County Healthcare Providers,

Ohio does not currently have any measles cases, but ODH is urging health care providers to be vigilant about measles.

The links below include photos of measles (Rubeola) and Signs & Symptoms. The attached document includes necessary clinical testing for confirmation. At this time Michigan is the closest state with an outbreak of 39 Measles cases.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) would like to inform you that there are several measles outbreaks nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 555 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 20 states from January 1 to April 11, 2019 (<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>). The majority of these measles cases are in New York City and New York state, which are primarily among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities and associated with travelers who brought measles back from Israel. Other cases have been associated with travel to the Ukraine and Philippines.

It is also important to note the upcoming Passover and Easter holidays present more opportunities for measles to spread among unvaccinated individuals. Patients exposed to measles during holiday travel could begin to develop symptoms from late April through mid-May.

Ohio does not currently have any measles cases, but ODH is urging health care providers to be vigilant about measles:

- Ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine.
 - One dose of MMR vaccine is approximately 93% effective at preventing measles; two doses are approximately 97% effective.
 - Individuals born prior to 1957 are considered to have presumptive evidence immunity.
- Consider measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms (cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis).
- Ask patients about international travel or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles exposures in their communities in the 21 days preceding their illness onset.
- **Promptly isolate patients with suspected measles to avoid disease spread and immediately report the suspect measles case to the local health department.**
- Perform appropriate tests to rule out other likely causes of febrile rash illness.
- Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles following instructions on the attached *ODH Collection and Submission of Suspected Measles Specimens* document while the patient is still in your facility.

A clinical case of measles illness is characterized by **all** the following:

- Generalized maculopapular rash lasting ≥ 3 days; **AND**
- Temperature of $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38.3°C); **AND**
- Cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis

About Measles:

Measles is an acute viral illness. It is characterized by a prodrome of fever (as high as 105°F) and malaise, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis, followed by a maculopapular rash. The rash spreads from head to trunk to lower extremities. Measles is usually

a mild or moderately severe illness. However, measles can result in complications such as pneumonia, encephalitis, and death. Approximately one case of encephalitis and two to three deaths may occur for every 1,000 reported measles cases.

The incubation period ranges from 7 to 21 days from exposure to onset of fever; rash usually appears about 14 days after exposure. Persons with measles are usually considered infectious from four days before until four days after onset of rash.

For additional information and resources on measles please visit the CDC's measles website (<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>).

1 Attachment included

Sent by: Laurie Billing, Ohio Department of Health

Categories of Local Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information