

Important Alert from Georgia Department of Public Health on Measles in Georgia

As of 1-17-19

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has **confirmed measles** in two residents of the metro Atlanta area. While infectious (Jan. 7-14, 2019), these residents visited several metro Atlanta locations and may have exposed others. DPH urges healthcare providers to maintain heightened awareness for patients with measles.

All Public Safety Personnel need to maintain a heightened awareness when encountering a patient or individual with a fever.

Clinical Presentation

Measles is a highly contagious illness and is spread primarily person-to-person via aerosolized droplets. The incubation period is typically 10 to 12 days but can range from 4 to 21 days. Measles typically begins with a prodrome of stepwise increasing fever (often as high as 104-105oF) accompanied by cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis. Koplik spots (tiny red spots with bluish-white centers on the buccal mucosa), which are diagnostic for measles, may appear 2-3 days before the rash and fade 1-2 days later. As fever peaks on day 4-5, a maculopapular rash typically appears on the face along the hairline and behind the ears, and then progresses downward to the chest, back, and extremities. Within 4-5 days, the rash fades in the same order that it appeared.

Vaccination

Measles-containing vaccine (MMR) remains the most effective prevention against disease. Ensure that patients are up-to-date on their MMR vaccine. Vaccination is recommended for children at 12 to 15 months of age with a second dose at 4 to 6 years of age. Documentation of two MMR vaccinations or proof of immunity to measles is required to attend school in Georgia.

Follow YOUR Agencies Protocols and or Guidelines when encountering a patient or individual with a highly contagious disease.

Actions Requested of First Responders (EMS, Fire and Law Enforcement):

Identify:

- Consider measles in an individual or patient who presents with a febrile rash illness and clinically compatible symptoms (cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis).
- Ask if the patient or individual has a history of recent international or domestic travel, exposure to international travelers, or exposure to a possible measles case within the last 21 days.
- If possible, identify those who may have been exposed.
- Ascertain if the individual or patient is up-to-date on their vaccinations according to CDC's recommended schedules for children and adults

Isolate:

- Isolate the individual from others, if possible until the patient can be outfitted with a surgical mask.
- Restrict number of personnel interacting with the individual or patient to reduces risk of exposure.
- **Instruct the individual or patient to wear a surgical mask (not an N-95), if possible.**
- Public safety personnel should follow their agencies protocols or guidelines for PPE (see attached: [Infection Control Postures](#))
- Once the patient is at a healthcare facility they should be placed in a negative pressure room, if available.

Inform:

- Notify your chain of command of your suspicions
- Notify your Medical Control prior to transport, if possible
- Hospitals are required to report suspect cases of measles **IMMEDIATELY** to the Georgia Department of Public Health.
(by calling your local District Health Office or the DPH Acute Disease Epidemiology Section at:
404-657-2588 during business hours Monday through Friday, or 1-866-PUB-HLTH after-hours on evenings and weekends.