

## **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.