

Public Health
Central Zone

Date: Friday, February 08, 2019
To: Central Zone Family Physicians and Emergency Department Staff
From: Dr. Ifeoma Achebe, Medical Officer of Health – Central Zone
Subject: Measles Outbreak in Washington State, United States

This alert is to inform you of a measles outbreak declared on January 18, 2019 in Washington State. There have been 49 confirmed cases of measles to date. Updated information about this outbreak is available at: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation> .

There have been no reported cases of measles in Alberta so far this year. However, patients may present with pre-travel concerns, or questions about symptoms upon return from Washington State.

Pre-travel Concerns

A history of lab-confirmed measles disease or having had two doses of a measles containing vaccine (MMR-V, MMR) at the appropriate ages and intervals are required to be protected from contracting measles. Clinicians can encourage patients to ensure their immunizations are up to date prior to traveling Washington State.

Individuals without two documented doses of measles containing vaccine or who do not have a history of lab-confirmed measles disease **who are traveling to Washington State** and who belong to one of the following risk groups would be eligible to receive a dose of publicly-funded measles containing vaccine:

- Infants 6 months of age up to and including 11 months of age
- Adults born before 1970 without proof of immunity
- Adults born after 1970 without proof of immunity or having received 2 documented doses of measles containing vaccine
- Children 12 months of age and older without proof of immunity or having received 2 documented doses of measles containing vaccine.

*Proof of immunity is either, serological proof of immunity or history of lab confirmed measles disease.

Children traveling to Washington State may receive their second dose of measles containing vaccine prior to their regularly scheduled 4-6 year old dose.

Please encourage your patients to contact their local public health centre or Health Link (8-1-1) to determine if they need vaccine prior to travel, and to make an appointment to receive the immunization if required.

Post-travel Concerns

Please notify Public Health if you have a patient returning from Washington State within the previous 21 days presenting with the following signs and symptoms: fever 38.3° C or higher AND cough, coryza or conjunctivitis AND generalized maculopapular rash. **Symptomatic patients should be advised to stay home with no visitors for 4 days after the rash onset.**

All suspected/confirmed cases of measles must be immediately reported to the Zone Medical Officer of Health by calling 403-356-6430.

Laboratory testing: If measles is suspected, please order the following tests on a ProvLab requisition. Note the date of symptom onset, any recent travel and measles vaccination history on the requisition. Please **notify the laboratory in advance** so that the patient can be masked and isolated appropriately on arrival.

Blood	Serology for measles IgM and IgG
Urine	For measles virus culture/PCR
NP Swab	For measles culture/PCR (in viral/universal transport medium [pink liqu

Infection, Prevention and Control Measures

- For symptomatic individuals:
 - Schedule for the last appointment of the day if possible
 - Do not to keep in the clinic setting longer than absolutely necessary.
 - Provide procedure mask.
 - Immediately isolate in private room, with the door closed, upon arrival.
 - If unable to isolate in a private room, have the patient wait in their vehicle until they can be accommodated for service immediately.
 - Any room that the client has occupied should be left with the door closed and should not be used for two hours after a potential case has left the room to allow any virus suspended in the air to settle.
 - Room surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected prior to re-use.

Thank you for your continuing collaboration in the preventing the spread of disease and improving the health of our population.

This alert is posted on the AHS Medical Officers of Health webpage at www.ahs.ca/czmoh.