

## Health Advisory

### Possible Exposure to Measles at Philadelphia International Airport

October 11, 2019

Due to multiple measles outbreaks currently occurring across the U.S. and worldwide, there is increased risk of measles exposure associated with travel. An individual with confirmed measles infection was present at the airport on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and may have exposed other travelers who were in the following terminals at the times indicated below:

- Wednesday, Oct. 2: Terminal F, 6:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 3: Terminal F, 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 3: Terminal A, 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 3: Terminal A/F shuttle, 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control (DDC) is issuing this health advisory to raise awareness of this possible exposure and to review diagnostic, reporting and immediate control strategies for clinical providers.

#### Recognition, Testing, and Management

Measles is highly contagious viral respiratory illness characterized by a prodromal phase with high fever, malaise, the three “C”s (cough coryza and conjunctivitis) and Koplik spots, followed by a descending maculopapular rash. Symptoms usually develop 8 to 12 days following exposure (range: 7–21 days). Infected persons can spread measles virus 4 days before until 4 days after the rash appears. To prevent measles transmission associated with this airport-associated possible exposure, providers should:

- Consider measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible symptoms (cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis) with recent travel history, specifically travel on dates and times listed above. Secondary cases from the airport-associated exposure would develop symptoms between October 9<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Promptly isolate suspected measles cases using airborne precautions to avoid disease spread.**
- Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles. Collect all of the following specimens:
  - Nasopharyngeal or throat swab and urine for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. Please contact PDPH at (215) 685-6742 for testing coordination with the state public health laboratory.
  - Serum for measles IgM and IgG testing. Measles serological tests are widely available at commercial laboratories.
- Advise patients who have suspected or confirmed measles infections to self-isolate, avoid travel, and limit close contact with others for 4 days following onset of rash.
- Ensure all patients are up-to-date on MMR vaccine. Exposed persons who have been appropriately immunized or who have immunity due to prior infection should be protected from developing measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine are 97% effective at preventing disease.
- Notify PDPH of any patient with suspected or confirmed measles infection. To report, call (215) 685-6742 during business hours or (215) 686-4514 (after hours, ask for DDC on-call staff).

#### Resources

- CDC Measles Information for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>
- CDC Recommendations for Measles Vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/hcp/index.html>

#### SUMMARY POINTS

- There is risk of possible exposure to a confirmed measles case in Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)
- Area healthcare providers should consider measles in patients with fever and rash who were at PHL during the exposure times
- When evaluating suspected cases:
  - Isolate **immediately**
  - Collect a nasopharyngeal or throat swab, urine, and serum for testing
  - Notify PDPH (business hours: (215) 685-6742, after hours: (215) 686-4514)