

Health Advisory: Travel-Associated Measles Cases

Minnesota Department of Health, Thurs, May 24 10:00 CDT 2024

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to family physicians, pediatricians, infection preventionists, primary care clinicians, infectious disease doctors, and emergency department staff.

Health care providers:

- Be aware that measles is increasing in Minnesota, nationally and internationally.
- Consider measles in patients presenting with rash, fever, and cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis; especially among people with recent international travel or contact with persons returning from international travel, and those who are unvaccinated.
- Isolate suspected measles cases in the health care setting. Refer to [Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html).
- Collect specimens as soon as possible after rash onset and obtain specimens for PCR testing. Refer to [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html).
- Assess MMR vaccination status of patients at every visit and vaccinate susceptible persons according to routine MMR recommendations - especially among those traveling internationally.
- Report suspect measles immediately by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 651-201-5414 or 877-676-5414.

Situation Summary

Three additional cases of measles have been identified in children who recently returned from international travel and had unknown vaccine history. All three children are siblings and residents of Anoka County. These three additional cases bring Minnesota's total case count to nine cases for 2024, six of which have occurred in the last two weeks.

Measles was laboratory confirmed by PCR at the Minnesota Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) on May 22, 2024. The cases were not infectious during travel. Exposures primarily occurred within the family and at Hennepin Healthcare (HCMC). The children were seen at HCMC on May 21 at 11 p.m. through May 22 at 6 a.m. Visitors and patients at HCMC on these days and times may have been exposed to measles. MDH is working closely with HCMC to contact individuals who were at HCMC during this time period and will provide information about how to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Susceptible persons who do not get PEP will be asked to exclude themselves from high-risk settings for 21 days following exposure. Exposures outside of the healthcare setting are still being assessed.

HEALTH ADVISORY: TRAVEL-ASSOCIATED MEASLES CASES

Nationally measles is also increasing. As of May 16, a total of 139 measles cases have been reported by 21 jurisdictions throughout the United States in 2024 ([CDC: Measles \(Rubeola\): Measles Cases and Outbreaks \(www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/\)](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/)).

It is important to assess MMR vaccination status at every clinic visit and recall those who have previously refused MMR vaccine for their child. The current measles situation is an opportunity to restart conversations with patients about the importance of vaccination.

For More Information

- [MDH Measles Information for Health Professionals \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html)
Additional information and provider palm cards on recognizing and reporting measles and links to other measles related materials and posters.
- [CDC: Measles: Plan for Travel \(www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html)
Measles and travel.
- [CDC: Talking to Parents about Vaccines \(https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html)
- [MDH: Using Client Follow-up in MIIC \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html)

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/han)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.