



Chicago Department of Public Health – Chicago VFC Program

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VFC News Bulletin – November 21, 2018

PLEASE READ AND SHARE WITH ALL STAFF IN YOUR OFFICE!

UPDATE: MEASLES ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD

This bulletin is to alert Chicago providers of measles outbreaks in communities in New York City and Ocean County, New Jersey that occurred due to international travel. **Currently, there is no measles activity in Chicago and there are no changes to existing measles vaccination guidelines.**

On November 2nd, the New York City Health Department reported 17 total confirmed cases of measles, up from 11 in mid-October. Three infections, including the initial case of measles, were acquired by children on a visit to Israel. The New Jersey Department of Health reported 14 confirmed cases of measles in Ocean County. Expanded vaccination recommendations have been made locally, but do not currently apply to Chicago residents.

- Read the New Jersey Department of Health's full news briefing [here](#).
- Read the New York City Department of Health's full news briefing [here](#).

There are currently international outbreaks of measles in Israel, Moldova, and New Zealand. 41,000 cases of measles have also been reported in Europe in 2018. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted the related travel notices last week:

- Israel: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/measles-israel>
- Moldova: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/measles-moldova>
- New Zealand: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/measles-new-zealand>

It's important for travelers to these areas and any other countries where measles is endemic to be vaccinated against measles. Check that your patients 6 months of age or older who will be traveling internationally are protected against measles:

- Infants (6 through 11 months of age) should have 1 dose of MMR vaccine.
- Adults and children over 1 year of age should have 2 doses of MMR vaccine given on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 28 days.

Clinicians should keep measles in mind when evaluating patients with fever and rash, especially if the patient has traveled internationally or to a location with active measles transmission within the last 21 days.

Visit www.chicagohan.org/measles for additional information, testing instructions, and how to obtain consultation.