

## VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Chicago Department of Public Health – Immunization Program  
VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE SPECIAL EDITION

Issue Number 8 : April 12, 2019

### **ALERT: Potential Opportunity for Measles to Spread during Upcoming Passover Holiday**

#### **Summary of measles activity and potential for future spread:**

As you may know, there have been multiple outbreaks of measles in the U.S. So far this year there have been [465 cases in 19 states](#). The states that have reported cases to CDC are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, **Illinois**, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. The majority of measles cases are in New York City and New York state, which are primarily among [unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities](#) and associated with travelers who brought measles back from Israel.

With the upcoming Passover holiday, which begins the evening of Friday, April 19 and ends the evening of Saturday, April 27, we anticipate there may be more opportunities for measles to spread. Please be aware that many people celebrating Passover do not stay at home. Families may travel to resorts, hotels, or take cruises for the holiday. And there will likely be an influx of international travelers before Passover, including many from Israel where measles is circulating. Popular destinations include New York, New Jersey, Florida, Las Vegas, Arizona, and Washington, D.C.

Measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 9 of 10 people around them will also become infected if they are not protected. The virus can cause serious health complications, such as pneumonia or encephalitis, and even death.

#### **Healthcare professionals should be vigilant about measles:**

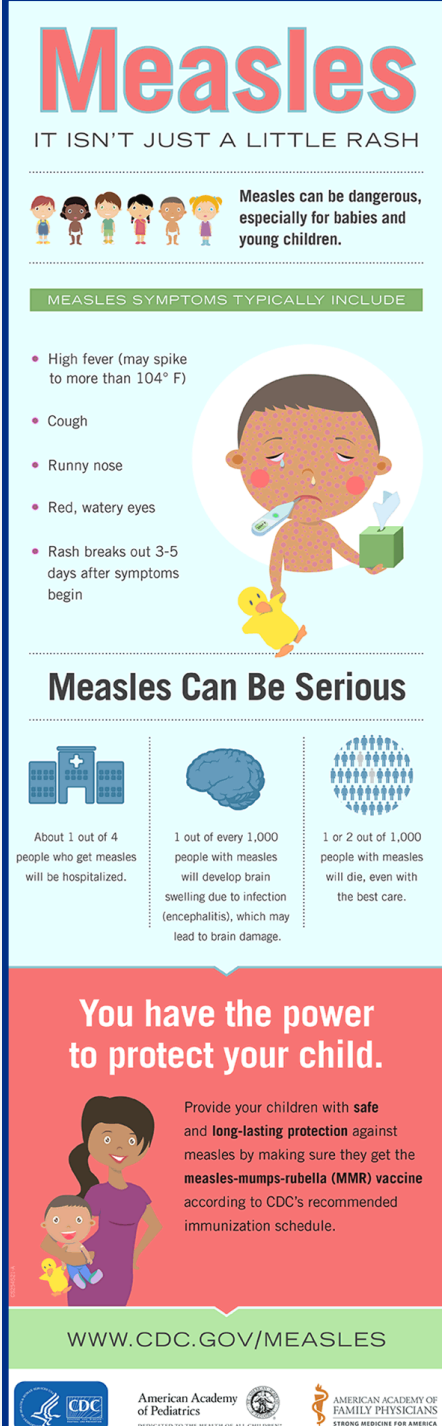
- Ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine.
- Consider measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms (cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis). **Patients exposed to measles while traveling for Passover could begin to develop symptoms between late April and mid-May.**
- Ask patients about recent travel internationally or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles exposures in their communities.
- **Promptly isolate patients with suspected measles to avoid disease spread and immediately report** the suspected measles case to the Chicago Department of Public Health at 312-743-9000.
- Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles (PCR preferred over titers). Go to [www.chicagohan.org/measles](http://www.chicagohan.org/measles) for instructions on collecting specimens and obtaining authorization for PCR testing.
- CDC continues to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated on schedule with the MMR vaccine. **People 6 months and older should be protected with the vaccine before leaving on international trips.**

## Stay Informed:

- Sign up for CDPH Health Alerts at <https://www.chifrontline.org/>
- Visit the Measles Health Alert Network webpage: [www.chicagohan.org/measles](http://www.chicagohan.org/measles)
- CDPH Measles—Get the Facts: [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdp/supp\\_info/infectious/get-the-facts--measles.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdp/supp_info/infectious/get-the-facts--measles.html)
- CDC's measles website: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

## Share information about measles at your office and online:

- CDC has a recent article for parents about measles that you can link to from your consumer-friendly websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/measles/>
- Printable fact sheets, posters, and infographics: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/resources/parents-caregivers.html>
- Some great resources and tips for talking with parents about vaccines include:
  - o [Talking with Parents about Vaccines for Infants](#)
  - o [Preparing for Questions Parents May Ask](#)
  - o [Infant Immunization FAQs in English and Spanish](#)
  - o [Measles fact sheet for parents in English and Spanish](#)






**Measles**  
IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE RASH

Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children.

MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE

- High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin

**Measles Can Be Serious**

 <p>About 1 out of 4 people who get measles will be hospitalized.</p>	 <p>1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis), which may lead to brain damage.</p>	 <p>1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.</p>
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**You have the power to protect your child.**

Provide your children with **safe and long-lasting protection** against measles by making sure they get the **measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine** according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

WWW.CDC.GOV/MEASLES

