

Measles Preparedness Checklist for Healthcare Systems

Measles is a highly contagious infectious disease that can cause severe illness. While measles was eliminated in the U.S., increased measles activity globally and domestically, along with declining vaccination rates in the U.S., put our community at risk for measles.

Measles cases and outbreaks are highly disruptive and resource intensive. Use this document to prepare your facility to respond to a potential case. Chicago residents suspected of having measles should be reported immediately to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Prepare your healthcare system when there is increased measles activity

- Increase awareness for front-line staff, especially if a measles case has been identified in the Chicagoland area.
 - Post [AAP Project Firstline posters](#) in medical and nursing areas.
 - Consider placing signs at entrances to outpatient clinics or acute care settings for patients and visitors to alert staff, patients, and visitors about signs and symptoms of measles, especially for patients after recent international travel or exposure to measles. An example from CDC can be found [here](#).
- Train staff, including front desk and triage staff, to recognize symptoms of measles and immediately isolate suspect cases to minimize exposures to others.
 - Encourage patients or providers to call ahead to ensure patients don a mask upon arrival (if possible), enter at an access point that limits exposures (e.g., a back or side door), and are placed in a private room immediately.
 - Identify room(s) for isolation of suspect cases (airborne infection isolation room [AIIR] preferred, but at a minimum a private room with door).
 - Review proper [infection prevention and control procedures](#), including use of respiratory protection (N95 or higher) when caring for a suspect case.
 - See CDPH's [measles evaluation algorithm](#) for support on evaluating patients with febrile rash illness.
- Ensure your staff know to immediately notify the local health department of a suspect measles case (within 3 hours of clinical suspicion). Do not wait on laboratory confirmation!
 - For Chicago patients, call 312-743-9000 ext. 2 during business hours and 311 (or 312-744-5000 if outside the City of Chicago) after hours and on weekends.

- Review [measles testing recommendations](#) with providers.
 - Check that your laboratory has a process in place to [submit specimens to the Illinois Department of Public Health Laboratory \(IDPHL\)](#) in Chicago. Testing is free at IDPHL. Submission to commercial laboratories for PCR testing is not recommended and will delay diagnosis.
- Review processes to ensure you are prepared to identify all patients, visitors, and staff who may have been exposed during periods when the appropriate transmission-based precautions were not in place (e.g., waiting room exposures).
- Confirm key staff are signed up to receive [CDPH Health Alerts](#) and [Illinois Department of Public Health SIREN Alerts](#) to receive up to date guidance and situational updates.
- Ensure healthcare personnel have [presumptive evidence of immunity to measles](#) AND documentation is readily accessible. In this context, healthcare personnel are defined as paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.
- Initiate efforts to increase vaccination coverage among your patients.
 - Vaccinate travelers accordingly before international travel as [recommendations for international travel](#) differ from routine MMR vaccine recommendations.
 - Use every opportunity to assess for immunizations and bring patients up to date with recommended vaccinations. See MMR standing order templates for [children](#) and [adults](#).
 - Consider having pop-up alerts in place in your electronic health record system to remind providers when vaccines, including MMR, are due.
 - Conduct [reminder/recall efforts](#) to identify and notify families whose children are behind or due soon for measles vaccinations. Reach out to CDPH at ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org for support in using reminder/recall tools built into I-CARE.

Additional resources

- Chicago Measles HAN page: <https://www.chicagohan.org/diseases-and-conditions/measles>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>