



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 7, 2018

DAL DHDTTC 18-18

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

Due to the measles outbreaks currently impacting Rockland, Kings, Orange and Westchester Counties, as well as an increased risk for secondary exposures related to holiday season events and shopping, the New York State Department of Health (Department) is strongly recommending that, until further notice, hospitals and primary care clinics/health centers located in these affected areas screen patients presenting to their Emergency Department (ED) or waiting rooms for symptoms of measles.

Healthcare providers should suspect measles in clinically compatible cases, especially those individuals who reside in or have spent time in areas experiencing measles outbreaks, have recently traveled internationally, or who were exposed to a person with febrile rash illness. Individuals who were exposed and are not immune to measles could develop signs and symptoms of measles 7-21 days after exposure. Clinically compatible symptoms include: an erythematous, maculopapular rash, a fever between 101 – 105 degrees, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis. The rash initially presents on the face and spreads downward to the neck, trunk and limbs. Koplik spots (punctate blue-white spots on the bright red background of the buccal mucosa) may be present, often before the rash develops.

Additionally, hospitals in the impacted counties are asked to not permit visitation by any persons demonstrating these clinical symptoms, to any location in the hospital, particularly areas caring for the most vulnerable patients, such as the newborn nursery. Individuals who have no known immunity to measles should also be asked to observe these same restrictions. Signage explaining these visitation restrictions should be displayed at all hospital entrances and at entrances to all units that treat the facility's most vulnerable patients.

Healthcare providers are reminded that they are required to report suspected measles cases to their local health department immediately.

The Department will continue to update providers over the course of this outbreak and appreciates the efforts of all providers to protect their communities by taking these steps to limit the spread of this serious illness. To submit comments or questions about this notice, please see <https://apps.health.ny.gov/surveyd8/email-hospdtc#no-back> and select "Measles" from the drop-down list.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Sheppard
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Primary Care and
Health Systems Management