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| DATE: | 05/08/2014 |
| TO: | Health Alert Network |
| FROM: | Michael Wolf, Secretary of Health |
| SUBJECT: | Measles Cases in Allegheny and Monroe Counties |
| DISTRIBUTION: | Statewide |
| LOCATION: | Statewide |
| STREET ADDRESS: | Statewide |
| COUNTY: | Statewide |
| MUNICIPALITY: | Statewide |
| ZIP CODE: | Statewide |

This transmission is a “Health Alert”: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING, AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Since May 1, 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) has been notified of two confirmed cases of measles in Monroe and Allegheny Counties. The first case (Case1) was reported to the Department on May 1, with the second (Case2) reported on May 5.

Case1, eight-month old infant, is a resident of Monroe County who recently returned from a two month stay in Pakistan. Fever of 104°F began on April 16, at which point the infant was seen at a Monroe County emergency room (ER). Rash developed on April 19, and the infant again presented to the same ER. The rash reportedly began on the face and quickly spread to the arms, and was accompanied by conjunctivitis. The baby was admitted to this hospital on April 20, and measles infection was confirmed by positive IgM from a commercial laboratory. Case1 may have exposed others during the three separate emergency room visits on April 16, 19, and 20.

Case2 is a 39 year old Allegheny County Resident who works in Beaver County. The man developed headache, body ache, cough, rigors and coryza on May 1. On May 3 he was seen at an Allegheny County emergency room (ER). Rash developed on May 4 and the man was seen at another Allegheny County ER. ER physicians noted fever of 102°F, conjunctivitis, a morbilliform rash, and Koplik spots. Case2 may have exposed coworkers at his Beaver County workplace, various businesses in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, and during his two separate emergency room visits on May 3 and May 4.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have been working to track known contacts of both cases in order to minimize measles transmission among those exposed members of the public.

In light of there being two, unlinked measles cases in the western and eastern portions of Pennsylvania and the recent resurgence of measles in the United States and abroad, **the Pennsylvania Department of Health requests that all healthcare providers maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in persons with febrile rash illness, especially those with no history of measles vaccination or those who recently traveled to areas with known measles outbreaks.**

Clinicians should consider measles as a diagnosis in any individual with a febrile rash illness lasting for three or more days, a temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, and clinically compatible symptoms (coryza, conjunctivitis, malaise and Koplik's spots) who has recently traveled abroad and/or who has had contact with an individual with a febrile rash illness. Immunocompromised patients may not exhibit a rash, or may exhibit an atypical rash. The incubation period for measles from exposure to fever onset is generally 10 days (range: 7-18 days), and 14 days from exposure to rash onset (range: 7-21 days). Cases are considered infectious from one day before prodromal onset (four days before rash onset) to four days after rash onset.

In the event of a suspected or confirmed measles exposure, the following groups are considered susceptible to measles:

1. Anyone born after 1957 who has not had measles infection and has not received two doses of MMR vaccine. This group includes: infants who are too young for receipt of MMR, persons vaccinated with inactivated vaccine and have not been revaccinated, and those who refused MMR vaccination.
2. Immunocompromised persons, either from disease or medication immune suppression.

If measles is suspected, provider should:

1. Immediately place the patient in airborne isolation and notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health or the local health department.
2. Advise infected individuals to remain in self-isolation until they are no longer infectious
3. Advise potentially exposed individuals to remain in self-isolation until they provide documentation of immunity (born before 1957, prior measles infection, or two doses of MMR vaccine) or until 21 days have passed since their suspected exposure
 - a. **NOTE:** Healthcare workers and others in "high-risk" professions are NOT considered immune to measles if they were born prior to 1957. These individuals must provide a documented history of two doses of MMR vaccine, physician diagnosed measles, or positive measles IgG by serology.
4. Obtain specimens for testing, including specimens for virus isolation and genotyping (blood, urine and throat or nasopharyngeal swab).
5. Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 877-724-3258 or your local health department to facilitate consultation and assist with diagnosis, conduct contact tracing, and initiate transmission and outbreak control measures.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health urges all healthcare providers to ensure that their patients are vaccinated against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Providers caring for infants between 6 and 12 months of age who intend to travel abroad, especially to areas with known measles circulation, should administer one dose of MMR. Note, doses administered before 1 year of age are invalid and will not count toward the child's recommended two doses, but may provide protection for the duration of the trip. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Health recommends that providers ensure and document measles immunity for all health care workers.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

This information is current as of May 8, 2014, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.