

DATE:	2/9/2018
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Measles Case in Allegheny County
DISTRIBUTION:	Southwest
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	Statewide
COUNTY:	Statewide
MUNICIPALITY:	Statewide
ZIP CODE:	Statewide

This transmission is a “Health Advisory”: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

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

On February 9, 2018, CDC confirmed a case of measles in a fully vaccinated Allegheny County resident. The case-patient was exposed outside the US and developed prodromal symptoms several days prior to an atypical rash that started on January 21.

Times, dates and locations where people may have been exposed to the case include the following:

- The Carnegie Mellon University campus between January 17 and January 25.
- Port Authority bus 61A, 61B, 61C or 61D several times during that period, but precisely which bus route or time of day is not known.

Susceptible contacts to this case could have rash onset from January 24 through February 15. No additional cases have been detected at this time.

It is possible that members of the public were exposed to the case-patient in other unrecognized settings. In light of this possibility, the Allegheny County Health Department and Pennsylvania Department of Health request that all health care providers maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in persons with a febrile rash illness, especially in those with no history of measles vaccination. Consider measles as a diagnosis in anyone with a febrile rash illness lasting three days or more, a temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, and clinically compatible symptoms (cough, coryza and/or conjunctivitis). Immunocompromised patients may not exhibit rash or may exhibit an atypical rash. The incubation period for measles from exposure to rash onset is usually 14 days (range, seven to 21 days).

While most people are not at risk because they have been immunized or have had measles, the following groups of individuals are susceptible to becoming infected with measles:

- Anyone born since 1957 who has not received two doses of effective measles vaccine known as MMR, which would include infants too young to have been immunized; persons who were vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine, which was used from 1963 through 1967, and have not been re-vaccinated; and those who refused vaccination.
- Persons whose immune systems are compromised due to disease or medication.

If measles is suspected, the illness should be immediately reported to the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-2243 or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 877-724-3258 to facilitate consultation and to assist with diagnosis, tracking of contacts and initiation of control measures.

Providers suspecting measles should do the following:

- Advise patients who call not to expose others. Arrange for exam in isolated area if indicated.
- Should a suspected case present for care, place a mask on patient and isolate immediately.
- Obtain specimens for testing, including serum for measles IgM and IgG and throat swab in viral transport media and urine for confirmation and genotyping.
- Contact the Allegheny County Health Department or the PA Department of Health at the numbers above.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health urges all health care providers to assure their patients are vaccinated against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

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 February 9, 2018 but may be modified in the future.