

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**2018 - PAHAN-422-08-25 - ADV**  
**Probable Case of Measles in Central Pennsylvania**

<b>DATE:</b>	August 25, 2018
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Rachel Levine, MD, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Probable Case of Measles in Central Pennsylvania</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	n/a
<b>COUNTY:</b>	n/a
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	n/a
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	n/a

**This transmission is a “Health Advisory” that 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 August 24, 2018, Pennsylvania Department of Health was notified of a probable measles case in a patient who presented to Penn State Hershey Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

The case-patient developed prodromal symptoms several days prior to a rash that started on August 16. Times, dates and locations where people may have been exposed to the case include the following:

- The check in area of the Emergency Department at Penn State Hershey Milton S. Hershey Medical Center on Saturday, August 18, 2018, from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Susceptible contacts from this location could have rash onset from August 25 through September 8.

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 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 Pennsylvania Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH or 1-877-724-3258 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 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; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of August 25, 2018, but may be modified in the future.
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