



HEALTH ADVISORY  
Tuesday, April 10, 2018  
Measles in the San Francisco Bay Area

**CURRENT SITUATION**

Between 3/5/18 and 4/3/18, measles was confirmed in six (6) unvaccinated patients who are residents of Santa Clara County (5) and Alameda County (1). One additional linked case has been confirmed in Nevada. All cases are linked to an unvaccinated traveler who was exposed in Europe and developed measles after returning to the San Francisco Bay Area. Local health departments in the Bay Area are conducting contact investigations. Because Humboldt County residents often travel to the Bay Area, the risk of measles locally is elevated.

**Clinicians are requested to:**

- 1. Consider measles** in patients with a rash and fever  $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) with travel to the SF Bay area. There have been small outbreaks in several US states, many starting at airports. At this time, domestic travel presents a plausible exposure risk.
- 2. Prepare your facility for the possibility of patients with measles.** Measles is a highly contagious airborne virus which can still be viable in droplets in the air 1 hour after a contagious individual has exhaled in an area.
  - Patients requesting appointments for fever and rash should not present to the waiting room.
  - To prevent quarantine of essential staff, please ensure all staff can show evidence of either vaccination or immunity against measles.
  - Post signage that directs patients with fever and rash to notify staff. Train staff to immediately implement airborne precautions if measles is suspected.
- 3. Report suspected measles cases to Humboldt County Communicable Disease by phone at 707-268-2182 before you send the patient home;** after hours follow the instructions on the voicemail to reach the on call health officer.
- 4. Test** suspected measles cases in consultation with Humboldt County Public Health Lab. Testing should be done by a public health lab to ensure rapid and accurate results. Humboldt County Public Health Lab can be reached at 707-268-2179.
  - Collect a throat swab (for measles PCR) with a Dacron swab and place in Viral Transport Media
  - Collect a urine specimen (for measles PCR) in any container (does not need to be sterile)
  - Draw blood (for measles IgM and IgG) **if and only if** it is already Day 4 or later after rash onset
  - Collecting specimens while the patient is at your facility will prevent delays in confirmation and limit the potential for additional healthcare visits/exposures.
- 5. Advise patients with suspected measles to stay home with no visitors** until at least four days after rash onset and/or until cleared by Public Health to resume normal activities.
- 6. Vaccinate children and non-immune adults**, unless contraindicated, according to national guidelines.

