



Important: Increase in Reported Measles United States 2014

Dear Providers,

We are seeing a significant rise in measles cases in the U.S. this year, including a current outbreak in Ohio in an Amish community. A national surveillance update was published on Epi-X on May 10, 2014 titled "Measles Surveillance Update -- United States, January 1 - May 9, 2014" (see <https://epix2.cdc.gov/v2/Reports/Display.aspx?id=28833>).

Some healthcare providers throughout the U.S. are not recognizing measles or following established protocols for immediate isolation of suspected case patients and collection of appropriate specimens for laboratory confirmation. Therefore, please forward the message below to all healthcare providers and infection control specialists in your jurisdiction immediately.

This year, the United States is having more reported cases of measles than usual. Many healthcare providers in the United States have never seen a patient with measles and may not recognize the signs and symptoms. Healthcare providers need to be more alert than ever to the possibility of measles.

They should consider measles in patients who:

- present with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms [cough, coryza (or runny nose) or conjunctivitis (pink eye)]
- recently traveled internationally or were exposed to someone who recently travelled
- have not been vaccinated against measles

Healthcare providers should also consider measles when evaluating patients for other febrile rash illnesses, including Dengue and Kawasaki's Disease.

If you suspect measles, do the following immediately:

1. Promptly isolate patients to avoid disease transmission.
2. Immediately report the suspect measles case to their health department.
3. Obtain specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles, including viral specimens.

Additional guidance for healthcare providers can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>. Also, see CDC's measles surveillance guidance: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt07-measles.html>.

AFIX Corner

Raising Immunization Rates for Adolescents - “Room” for Improvement

Want to help increase your patient’s receptiveness and comfort when talking about important vaccines and issues regarding their health?

The Maine Immunization Program is encouraging the implementation of a “Room” for Improvement aimed towards the adolescent population. Have you tried to designate a room/space just for adolescents and teens? It has been shown that by creating an inviting space for parent’s and teens, they will in turn be more apt to participate in getting their adolescent vaccinations. Not only will this help parent’s and teens engage in conversation with the provider, it will also help increase the provider’s comfort level when talking to them about vaccines.

For ideas and materials, please contact the Maine Immunization Program or visit the link below:
<http://www.cdc.gov/VACCINES/who/teens/products/print-materials.html>

VACCINE FACT

Over 1 million infants and young children die every year from pneumococcal disease and rotavirus diarrhea. A large number of these deaths can be prevented through vaccination. (WHO/Pierre Viro)

Please ensure that you are providing all of the ACIP recommended vaccines within your practice.

Important Reminder

The Maine Immunization Program will be hosting Regional Trainings on the following dates:

June 26, 2014
Augusta Armory
Augusta

August 14, 2014
Maine Health
10 Free St., Portland

August 21, 2014
Four Points Sheraton
Bangor

To register, please email celeste.poulin@maine.gov with the date that you plan on attending. There is no registration fee

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:
Phone (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775

