

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2011 PAHAN-0209-07-26-ADV
Measles Exposures in Berks, Bucks, Delaware, and
Lehigh Counties

DATE: July 26, 2011
TO: Health Alert Network
FROM: Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM
Secretary of Health
SUBJECT: Measles Exposures in Berks, Bucks, Delaware, and Lehigh Counties

DISTRIBUTION: Statewide
LOCATION: Statewide
STREET ADDRESS: Statewide
COUNTY: Statewide
MUNICIPALITY: Statewide
ZIP CODE: Statewide

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” and 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

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is conducting an investigation into a cluster of measles cases among unvaccinated preschool children in Berks County. The first ill child developed a febrile rash illness on July 7. This child appears to be the source of infection for two siblings, who became ill on July 18 and July 22, and an unrelated preschooler exposed at a church service, who became ill on July 22. The index case has a history of travel outside of Pennsylvania and the exposure is believed to have occurred at that time.

In addition to home contacts, while infectious the most recent cases may have exposed others at the following locations:

Berks County :

- BB's Grocery Outlet, 6180 Morgantown Road (Old MOM's Mall) on Tuesday, July 19, between 3 and 8 p.m.

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- Chick-fil-A, 4675 Perkiomen Ave., Exeter Township on Thursday, July 21 from 6:30 to 11:45 p.m.

Delaware County ;

- Starbucks, 443 E. Baltimore Pike, Media on Friday, July 22 from 7:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Lehigh County

- KNBT Bank, 73 Main St., Emmaus on Friday, July 22 from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

- Pennsylvania Liquor Store, 1325 Chestnut St., Emmaus on Friday, July 22 from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

Bucks County

- Hot Spot Restaurant, Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown on Friday, July 22 from 6 p.m. to

closing.

Tracking of known contacts in all of these settings has been undertaken to reduce the potential for additional measles transmission. Those without documented measles immunity are being offered measles prophylaxis (immunization or immune globulin) and quarantine is being recommended for these individuals unless measles immunity can be demonstrated through laboratory testing or records of prior receipt of measles vaccine. The period of quarantine is 21 days from the date of exposure.

It is possible that members of the public were exposed to the ill children in other unrecognized settings. In light of this possibility and the overall increase in measles cases being seen in the United States this year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health requests 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. If measles is suspected, the illness should be *immediately* reported to your local health department or the Pennsylvania Department of Health in order to facilitate consultation and to assist with diagnosis, tracking of contacts and initiation of control measures.

Please call 1-877-PA-HEALTH to report a case of suspected measles.

This is the third cluster of measles cases in Pennsylvania this year. Measles cases in the United States are at their highest level since 1996. Most of the cases are associated with international importations from countries experiencing measles outbreaks in Europe (including France, the United Kingdom, Spain and Switzerland), Africa and Asia (including India).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health urges all health care providers to assure their patients are vaccinated against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that health care providers:

- Ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine and other vaccines.
- For those who travel abroad, CDC recommends that all U.S. residents older than six months be protected from measles and receive MMR vaccine, if needed, prior to departure.

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- Infants six through 11 months old should receive one dose of MMR vaccine before departure.

- Children 12 months of age or older should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days).
- Teenagers and adults without evidence of measles immunity should have documentation of two appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine.
- 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) who has recently traveled abroad or who has had contact with someone with a febrile rash illness. Immunocompromised patients may not exhibit rash or may exhibit an atypical rash. The incubation period for measles from exposure to fever is usually about 10 days (range, seven to 12 days) and from exposure to rash onset is usually 14 days (range, seven to 21 days).
- Isolate suspect measles case-patients and immediately report cases to local health departments to ensure a prompt public health response.
- Obtain specimens for testing, including viral specimens for confirmation and genotyping.

For more information, visit <http://www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/epi/MeaslesFactSheet.pdf>.

The CDC recently issued a health advisory discussing the measles situation in the U.S. and abroad. Visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00323.asp> for more information.

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 July 26, 2011, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.