

# Suspect Measles?

Isolate. Test. Report. Vaccinate.

## Symptoms:

Febrile rash illness characterized by:

- ▶ Temperature at or greater than 101°F or 38.3°C
- ▶ Cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis
- ▶ Generalized, maculopapular rash lasting 3 or more days

## Risk Factors:

- ▶ Domestic travel to affected areas
- ▶ International travel or travel through large international airports
- ▶ Exposure to a known case
- ▶ Member of or exposure to a community with an ongoing outbreak

Suspect a patient has measles? Complete steps 1-4.

### 1. Isolate Immediately

Isolate patients suspected of having measles who are in the clinic or will be coming in by putting them in a separate room immediately. Instruct them to remain isolated at home through day 4 following rash onset (count date of rash onset as day 0) or until measles is ruled out.

### 2. Test Symptomatic Patients

Collect appropriate specimens for PCR and serology testing as outlined below. Do not collect specimens from people without symptoms, as there are no asymptomatic carriers of measles.

#### Throat and Nasopharyngeal Swabs for PCR

- ▶ Collect throat and NP swabs for PCR as soon as measles is suspected.
- ▶ Collection should be done within 3 days of illness, but no later than 10 days after rash onset.
- ▶ Synthetic swabs are required; do not use cotton or calcium alginate swabs.
- ▶ Place both swabs in a single tube of viral transport medium.

#### Serology (IgG and IgM)

- ▶ Collect a blood sample as soon as measles is suspected.
- ▶ Use a red-top or serum-separator tube. Plasma is an unacceptable specimen.
- ▶ A second specimen may be needed if samples are collected within the first 72 hours of rash onset and both IgM and IgG are negative.

**Note:** If testing a patient for immunity to measles, collect a blood sample for IgG testing and send to a commercial lab.



**Maintain** specimens at refrigerator temperature. Ship with cool pack.

**Send** the sample to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) or, if in Milwaukee, send to the City of Milwaukee Lab. If IgM testing is required, specimen should only be sent to WSLH. Do not send to an out-of-state or commercial lab.

**Note:** When the index of suspicion is high, weekend testing may be possible. Contact 608-267-9959 or after hours 608-258-0099 to get confirmation.

### 3. Report Immediately

- ▶ Immediately report all suspect cases by telephone to the local public health jurisdiction in which the patient resides.
- ▶ Be certain to report to your organization's infection preventionist immediately.

### 4. Vaccinate Contacts

If contacts to the suspect case are present and are not immune to measles, offer MMR vaccination. MMR administered within 72 hours of exposure may prevent disease.

### Recommend MMR vaccine for all of your patients and clinic staff to prevent measles.

- ▶ The first dose should be given at 12 through 15 months of age.
- ▶ The second dose should be given at 4 through 6 years of age.
- ▶ Children ages 12 months through 12 years of age may get the MMRV combination vaccine.
- ▶ Teens and adults should make sure they are up-to-date with vaccination.

## Additional Resources

#### Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH)

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/>

**Contact** WSLH Customer Service at 800-862-1013 or 608-224-4272:

- ▶ To request a copy of the lab requisition form.
- ▶ For courier service information.
- ▶ For assistance with packaging or storage requirements.

#### Wisconsin Immunization Program

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/measles.htm>

After hours number: 608-258-0099

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

#### Wisconsin Local Health Departments

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm>

