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*To ensure timely,
compassionate and quality
emergency and disaster
medical services.*



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

April 26, 2019

TO: All 9-1-1 Paramedic Provider Agencies – Fire Chief, Medical Director, Nurse Coordinator, EMS Director, Paramedic Coordinator

All Ambulance Providers – CEO, Medical Director, Nurse Coordinator, Paramedic Coordinator, EMT Coordinator

FROM: Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD
Medical Director

SUBJECT: MEASLES OUTBREAK IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

This notice is based on a Public Health Alert, dated April 22, 2019.

Situation

There is an outbreak of measles in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) has recently confirmed 5 cases of measles. All reported cases were adults, the majority were unvaccinated and two had recent international travel. LAC DPH is currently investigating multiple exposures in adults and children related to these cases.

This alert is to notify all healthcare providers about the outbreak and summarize immediate steps to take when evaluating a person with possible measles. Further recommendations related to the outbreak will soon be released through Los Angeles Health Alert Network (LAHAN).

Actions Requested of EMS Providers

- Consider the diagnosis of measles among persons presenting with a febrile rash illness.
- Ask patients about recent or planned travel and review their immunization status.
- If measles is suspected, isolate patient in the ambulance immediately.
- Screen for rash with fever at the time of patient assessment in the field and immediately institute the following respiratory, airborne and contact precautions to prevent healthcare associated exposures:
 - Perform hand hygiene before and after patient care activities
 - PPE – Use fit tested N-95 respirator mask and eye protection (cleanable goggles or face shield)
 - Utilize disposable gloves and follow donning/doffing procedures
 - Place doffed gloves and other PPE in biohazard bag
- Mask patient with N-95 mask in enroute to the receiving hospital
- Consider having the patient compartment exhaust vent on “high” and isolating the driver compartment from the patient compartment. If driver compartment cannot be isolated, driver to wear N-95 mask.
- Notify the receiving hospital of your concern of possible measles, so that the emergency department staff can prepare for the arrival of the patient and exercise appropriate precautions at the time of transfer of care.

- Ambulance Decontamination:
 - Any visibly soiled surfaces must be decontaminated using an environmental protection agency (EPA) – registered disinfectant
 - Disinfect all potentially contaminated/high volume touched surfaces including the stretcher with the EPA-registered disinfectant
 - Medical equipment in contact with the patient (e.g., stethoscope or BP cuff) should be disposable or cleaned and disinfected prior to use on another patient.
- Contaminated clothing should be washed using detergent and household bleach or discarded in accordance with disease specific guidelines.
- If an EMS provider is exposed, please seek care through your agency's employee health as per your agency's policy. The EMS provider agency's employee health officer should contact the LAC DPH Central Reporting Unit; the Long Beach Public Health office; or the Pasadena Public Health office, of any suspected cases and further directions.

Reporting

Measles cases must be reported by telephone immediately to the local health department (Title 17, California Code of Regulations, § 2500).

Los Angeles County DPH Morbidity Central Reporting Unit:

- Weekdays 8:30 AM – 5 PM: Call 888-397-3993
- After-Hours: Call 213-974-1234 and ask for the physician on call.

Long Beach Health and Human Services:

- Weekdays 8 AM – 5 PM: Call 562-570-4302
- After-Hours: Call the Duty Officer as 562-500-5537

Pasadena Public Health Department:

- Weekdays 8 AM – 5 PM (closed every other Friday): Call 626-744-6089
- After-Hours: Call 626-744-6043

Resources

- **Technical Assistance:** LAC DPH Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program Surveillance Unit 213-351-7800
- **EMS Infectious Disease Playbook:** <https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ASPR-EMS-Infectious-Disease-Playbook-June-2017.pdf>
- **Information for Clinicians:**
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/providers_resources.htm
- **Information and FAQs for Parents and Patients:**
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/measles/index.htm>

This update is from the Los Angeles County EMS Agency's Medical Director and is revised based on the Health Alert sent by Dr. Frank Pratt, Medical Director, Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.