



May 28, 2014

ALERT # 12: Update on Measles in New York City

- 1) **The measles outbreak in New York City has ended**
- 2) **All children should receive Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine on time at 12 months of age**
- 3) **Children age 6 to 11 months should receive MMR vaccine before international travel**

**Distribute to All Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Emergency Medicine,
Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, and
Infection Control Staff**

Dear Colleagues,

The outbreak of measles in New York City (NYC) has ended. From February 5 through April 11, 2014, the Health Department confirmed 26 measles cases, 25 of which were outbreak-associated and one related to international travel. At this time, providers in all NYC zip codes should return to routine measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine recommendations: patients should receive their 1st dose of MMR vaccine at age 12 months and the 2nd dose at age 4 to 6 years. Immunizations should be administered on time with no delay.

Although this outbreak has ended, international importations of measles could spark future outbreaks. Measles is still common in many parts of the world, including countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa. The United States is also reporting high numbers of measles cases this year; the majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated. Make sure your patients are protected against measles before international travel. Children aged 6 to 11 months should receive one dose of MMR vaccine before international travel; this dose will not count towards completion of the routine schedule and will need to be repeated at 12 months of age. If your adult patients do not have documentation of prior MMR vaccination, obtain a measles IgG to assess immunity or administer one dose of MMR vaccine, since there is no harm if they had been previously vaccinated.

Providers should consider measles in patients with fever and rash combined with cough, conjunctivitis, or coryza. Suspect cases should be put in airborne isolation and reported immediately, even before confirming the diagnosis. The Health Department's Public Health Laboratory will conduct rapid testing of suspect cases.

Detailed measles information is available on our website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/immmea-hcp.shtml>. For assistance with ordering Vaccines for Children (VFC) program vaccine or generating recall letters for patients who are not up to date with vaccination, call 347-396-2400. To report a suspect measles case, call 347-396-2402 during regular business hours; after hours, call 866-692-3641.

As always, your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rosen

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