



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH

*Commissioner*

April 17, 2014

Dear Hospital CEO and COO:

In follow up to yesterday's phone call with me, I am sending this communication to reiterate the key points discussed on the call. I ask that you please forward to your infection control and adult and pediatric emergency department medical and administrative staff.

The Department of Health has identified 26 cases of measles in New York City since February 5<sup>th</sup>, of which 25 are related to the ongoing outbreak that is centered in northern Manhattan. Despite heightened awareness about the outbreak, there continue to be exposures occurring in medical settings, particularly in emergency departments and in-patient settings. Multiple exposures have occurred at multiple medical facilities throughout the City resulting in well over 1,000 exposures.

I am therefore asking you to ensure that your hospital takes the following immediate steps:

- Ensure adequate staff at facility entrances. A best practice is to post staff at hospital and emergency department entrances to ask about rash with fever.
- All patients should be asked whether they have a rash and fever at triage and registration.
- Ensure adequate signage instructing patients to notify staff immediately if they have a fever and rash. Put Stop! triage posters in the waiting rooms in the emergency rooms and outpatient clinic settings. DOHMH has posters in English, Spanish, Creole and Chinese and will have other languages available.
- Measles transmission is airborne and by droplet. All patients with symptoms suspicious for measles must be placed in a negative pressure room immediately. If not available, mask the patient and place them in a private room. Note that this is second best and may still result in exposures. Exam rooms cannot be used for two hours after a suspect measles case has been seen in that room.
- Post materials targeting medical staff about the clinical presentation of measles and to take immediate steps to prevent exposures. A measles clinician alert poster is available which can be place in triage areas and other locations where the clinical staff are working.
- All hospital staff are required by New York State law to have proof of immunity to measles. Ensure all staff are in compliance.

The above posters, as well as other materials and resources, are available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/immmea-hcp.shtml>. Posters can also be obtained by calling the Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641 between 9 am and 5 pm.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner