MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20190419-00146-ADV (Medical Advisory)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians and Healthcare Providers - Statewide

DATE: Friday, April 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Confirmed Measles in a Tennessee Resident with Travel to Mississippi

Dear Colleagues,

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is reporting measles exposures in Mississippi from a confirmed case of measles in a Tennessee resident. The Tennessee case traveled extensively in the Meridian and Hattiesburg areas (east central and south Mississippi) while infectious from April 9 to April 11, 2019, resulting in multiple exposures in Mississippi residents, including healthcare workers. Based on the dates of exposure and the incubation period, cases may present in Mississippi between now and May 2, 2019.

MSDH is conducting a thorough investigation to identify susceptible contacts and as of April 19, no cases of measles have been confirmed in Mississippi as a result of this exposure.

Providers, healthcare facilities and hospitals in Mississippi are asked to:

- Consider the possibility of measles when evaluating susceptible patients with an acute febrile rash illness, especially if the individual reports contact to a known case of measles.
- Place any suspect measles patients in airborne isolation and immediately notify MSDH at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours).
- If possible, advise patients with a febrile rash or febrile cough illness to call before coming to your office/facility so that appropriate actions can be taken to limit patient exposures.
- Review documentation of measles immunity for all employees and healthcare providers in your facility. Evidence of immunity:
  - Written documentation of two doses of measles containing vaccine;
  - Laboratory evidence of immunity (IgG positive);
  - Laboratory confirmation of disease;
  - Born before 1957 (facilities should consider providing 2 doses of MMR when no other evidence of immunity is present).
- If there is measles exposure in your office/facility, any healthcare personnel who do not evidence of immunity will need to be furloughed from work for 21 days from their last exposure.
Clinical Presentation:

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness spread person to person through airborne respiratory droplets. Measles is characterized by prodromal fever (as high as 105°F) and the three C’s (cough, coryza and conjunctivitis), often with Koplik spots (white spots on an erythematous base on the buccal mucosa). On about the 3rd to 7th day of the illness (usually about 14 days after a person is exposed) patients develop a maculopapular rash spreading from the head to the trunk and lower extremities, becoming generalized over a 3 day period. Individuals are considered contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the onset of rash. The incubation period ranges from 7 to 21 days.

Laboratory Diagnosis:

Call MSDH for guidance on the diagnosis and laboratory testing for measles suspects. The Mississippi Public Health Laboratory is able to perform measles specific IgM antibody testing and measles RNA detection by real-time PCR (RT-PCR) on urine and respiratory samples.

Reporting:

Measles is a Class 1 reportable condition in Mississippi requiring immediate reporting to MSDH within 24 hours at first knowledge or suspicion. To report a suspected or confirmed case, call 601-576-7725 during regular business hours or 601-576-7400 during nights, weekends or holidays.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MSDH Medical Advisory
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20190419-00146-ADV
Program (HAN) Type: Medical Advisory
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00146
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type: 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; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type): Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
**Message Type:**

- **Alert:** Indicates an original Alert
- **Update:** Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- **Cancel:** Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- **Error:** Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

- **Extreme:** Extraordinary threat to life or property
- **Severe:** Significant threat to life or property
- **Moderate:** Possible threat to life or property
- **Minor:** Minimal threat to life or property
- **Unknown:** Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

- **Sensitive:** Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- **Not Sensitive:** Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).