

## Possible Measles Exposure to Pennsylvania Residents

<b>DATE:</b>	October 15, 2024
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Possible Measles Exposure to Pennsylvania Residents</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	N/A
<b>COUNTY:</b>	N/A
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	N/A
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	N/A

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” which provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

### Summary

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) was notified by the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) about a confirmed measles case who had visited two health care facilities and several public places in New Jersey with possible exposure among Pennsylvania residents.
- The individual with measles potentially exposed members of the public at several locations:
  - **Location:** Livoti’s Old World Market, 200 Mounts Corner Drive, Freehold, NJ 07728; **Date & Time:** September 30, 2024, between 5:30 PM and 8:30 PM.
  - **Location:** El Rancho Mexican Restaurant, 28 W Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728; **Date & Time:** October 1, 2024, between 7:30 PM and 10:30 PM.
  - **Location:** International Longshoreman Association Strike, Elizabeth Chassis Depot, 1510 S. Bay Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, and the area near the “Welcome to Elizabeth Terminal;” **Date & Time:** October 1-3, 2024, all day.
  - **Location:** Atlantic Health Immediate Care, 479 Route 520, Suite A103, Marlboro, NJ 07746; **Date & Time:** October 6, 2024, between 3:00 PM and 6:00PM.
  - **Location:** Jersey Shore University Medical Center – Emergency Department, 1945 NJ-33, Neptune City, NJ 07753; **Date & Time:** October 7, 2024, between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
- There are currently no active cases of measles in PA.
- The DOH also reminds providers to immediately report suspected cases of measles to local public health authorities or to the DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258).

## **Background**

As of October 11, Pennsylvania has identified four cases of measles where the initial source of these cases was associated with international travel. Pennsylvania has had [no measles outbreaks this year](#).

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the DOH was notified by the New Jersey Department of Health that Pennsylvania residents could have been exposed to measles.

The [New Jersey Health Department](#) confirmed measles case is a resident of Monmouth County who presented with measles following recent international travel. The individual developed a rash and was subsequently confirmed to have measles via positive measles PCR results. He visited several healthcare facilities and public venues while infectious for measles.

DOH notes that anyone who visited the following New Jersey locations during the specified dates and times may have been exposed and should contact a health care provider immediately to discuss potential exposure and risk of developing the illness.

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Potentially exposed individuals, if infected, could develop symptoms as late as **October 29, 2024**.

## **When to Suspect Measles**

Consider measles as a diagnosis in anyone with a febrile rash illness lasting three days or more, a temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, and clinically compatible symptoms (cough, coryza and/or conjunctivitis), particularly if the patient was potentially exposed to a case of measles or has recently traveled to an area with an [on-going measles outbreak](#) and are [not fully vaccinated](#).

## **Measles Clinical Manifestations & Transmission**

Measles is an acute viral disease that is spread through airborne transmission of the virus or by contact with items contaminated by throat or nasal secretions. Measles disease is characterized by:

- Fever, cough, runny nose (coryza) and red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis);
- Koplik's spots, which may appear on the buccal mucosa within two or three days;

- A characteristic red, blotchy [rash](#) that appears on the face then spreads body-wide in days three through seven after symptoms onset.
- Other symptoms may include anorexia, lymphadenopathy and diarrhea (especially in infants);
- [Possible complications of measles](#) include otitis media, pneumonia, febrile seizures, and encephalitis.

### Infection Control Considerations for Suspected Cases of Measles

Because measles is highly infectious and the virus can remain airborne up to two hours, providers should take precautions to minimize exposure if one of their patients is suspected of being infected:

- Consider review of vaccine records or titer reports for your staff now, to ensure that only those with evidence of immunity provide care to a suspected case of measles.
- Advise those who are at risk to call the healthcare or office first about an exposure before presenting to a health care facility.
- Advise patients who call about a febrile rash illness to minimize exposure to others.
- Should a suspected case present for care, place a mask on patient and isolate immediately.
- Arrange for exam in isolated area. The exam room should not be used for at least 2 hours after the measles suspect leaves.

### Measles Testing Is ESSENTIAL.

The DOH urges providers to obtain the following specimens from patients who are suspected of having measles and provide the onset date of patient's symptoms:

- **Throat or nasopharyngeal swab for rRT-PCR testing**
  - Send specimen in viral or universal transport media (VTM/UTM)
  - Ship on cold packs
- **Urine for rRT-PCR testing**
  - Collect minimum of 50 mL in sterile container
  - Ship on cold packs in leak-proof container.
- **Serum for measles**
  - IgM and IgG testing should be discussed with the department or the local health department about the usefulness in a particular situation.

### Post Exposure Prophylaxis for Those with Known Exposure to a Measles Case

- MMR given to non-immune individuals within 72 hours of exposure can prevent measles disease.
  - For adults and children without contraindications who have not previously received two doses of MMR if at least one month has elapsed since the most recent dose
  - For infants between 6 and 11 months of age, a dose of MMR can be given but will not count as part of the primary series.

- Immune globulin (0.50 mL/kg, max 15 mL) given within 6 days of exposure for high risk, nonimmune exposed individuals can reduce the likelihood of measles disease and complications:
  - For infants under 6 months of age, IM
  - For non-immune pregnant women and severely immunocompromised individuals, IVIG is recommended.

**If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.**

**Individuals interested in receiving further PA-HANs are encouraged to register at [HAN Notification Registration](#).**

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.

This information is current as of October 15, 2024, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.
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