

Measles Outbreak in Clark County, Washington

The Idaho Immunization Program and South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) are alerting Idaho healthcare providers that Clark County Public Health in Washington State continues to investigate an expanding measles outbreak, with 22 confirmed cases of measles reports as of January 22, 2019. For information on this outbreak and possible exposure locations in Washington and Oregon, see <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation>.

No measles cases have been reported yet in Idaho; however, healthcare providers are encouraged to assess measles vaccination status of their patients and issue appropriate reminders or recalls.

Healthcare providers should consider measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms, especially if the patient recently traveled internationally or to locales in the United States experiencing a measles outbreak including Clark County, WA.

Due to the extreme communicability of patients with measles, if a patient with possible measles is seen, exercise strict airborne precautions during the entire time the patient is in the office. Patients should wear a mask before entering the office and during the entire time in the office. Only staff, known to be immune, should interact with the patient. Call SCPHD to discuss appropriate response.

Healthcare providers should obtain **BOTH** a serum sample and a throat or nasopharyngeal swab for testing of patients suspected to have measles, at first contact with the patient. The Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) can offer PCR testing on specimens from patients with compatible symptoms only. There may be an associated fee for testing. Contact SCPHD for sampling and submission information.

Suspected measles is reportable to SCPHD (208-737-5971; fax 208-737-5991) or the Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention, Epidemiology Program (phone 208-334-5939; fax 208-332-7307) within one working day. Prompt reporting will facilitate rapid public health investigation to initiate appropriate control measures for this highly contagious disease.