

# Suspect Measles?

## Isolate. Test. Report. Vaccinate.

### Symptoms:

Febrile rash illness characterized by:

Prodrome

- ▶ Temperature  $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$
- ▶ Cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis

Rash

- ▶ Generalized, maculopapular rash lasting  $\geq 3$  days

### Risk Factors:

- ▶ Domestic travel to affected areas
- ▶ International travel or travel through large international airports
- ▶ Exposure to a known case
- ▶ Member of or exposure to a community with an ongoing outbreak

## Suspect a patient has measles? Complete steps 1-4.

### 1. Isolate Immediately

Isolate patients suspected of having measles who are in the clinic or will be coming in by putting them on airborne precautions immediately. Instruct them to remain isolated at home through day 4 following rash onset (count date of rash onset as day 0) or until measles is ruled out.

**2. Test** only **symptomatic** patients. There are no asymptomatic infectious carriers. Collect both of the following specimens:

#### Throat and Nasopharyngeal Swabs for PCR

- ▶ Collect throat and NP swabs for PCR as soon as measles is suspected.
- ▶ Collection should be done within 3 days of illness, but no later than 10 days after rash onset.
- ▶ Synthetic swabs are required; do not use cotton or calcium alginate swabs.
- ▶ Place both swabs in a single tube of viral transport medium.

#### Serology (IgG and IgM)

- ▶ Collect a blood sample as soon as measles is suspected.
  - ▶ Use a red-top or serum-separator tube. Plasma is an unacceptable specimen.
  - ▶ A second specimen may be needed if samples are collected within the first 72 hours of rash onset and both IgM and IgG are negative.
- Note:** for immunity testing, only order IgG

**Maintain** specimens at refrigerator temperature. Ship with cool pack.

**Send** the sample to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) or, if in Milwaukee, send to the City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory. If IgM testing is required, the specimen should only be sent to WSLH. Do not send to an out-of-state or commercial lab.

**Note:** When the index of suspicion is high, weekend testing may be possible.  
Contact 608-267 9959 or after hours 608-258-0099 to get confirmation.

*Steps continued on page 2*



## *Suspect measles steps, continued*

### **3. Report Immediately**

- ▶ Immediately report all suspect cases by telephone to the local public health jurisdiction in which the patient resides.
- ▶ Be certain to report to your organization's infection preventionist immediately.

### **4. Vaccinate Contacts**

If contacts to the suspect case are present and are not immune to measles, offer MMR vaccination. MMR administered within 72 hours of exposure may prevent disease.

### **Remember to give a strong recommendation for the MMR vaccine to both your patients and clinic staff.**

- ▶ The first dose should be given at 12 through 15 months of age.
- ▶ The second dose should be given at 4 through 6 years of age.
- ▶ Children ages 12 months through 12 years of age may get the MMRV combination vaccine.
- ▶ Teens and adults should make sure they are up-to-date with vaccination.

### **Testing for Immunity**

If testing a patient for an immunity to measles, collect a blood sample for IgG testing and send to a commercial lab.

## **Additional resources**

### **Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH)**

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/>

**Contact** WSLH Customer Service at 800-862-1013 or 608-224-4272:

- ▶ To request a copy of the lab requisition form.
- ▶ For courier service information.
- ▶ For assistance with packaging or storage requirements.

### **Division of Public Health**

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/measles.htm>

After hours number: 608-258-0099

### **Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

### **Wisconsin local health departments**

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm>

