



PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

September 12, 2011

The Southern Nevada Health District Office of Epidemiology received a report on September 12th that Clark County residents and visitors may have been exposed to measles (rubeola) by an infected tourist on September 1-3, 2011. The case traveled from Los Angeles, California on a charter bus to Las Vegas, and visited several hotels while here.

Up to the week ending September 9 of this year, 181 cases of measles were reported in the United States, the highest number reported for this time period since 1996. The majority of these cases were unvaccinated and were associated with importation from other countries either U.S. residents traveling abroad or among foreign visitors.

Cases of measles are rarely identified in Southern Nevada, and providers may not routinely consider measles when they encounter a patient with a fever and rash illness as part of their differential diagnosis. As such, cases occurring in the community may go unidentified or undiagnosed. The Health District is encouraging healthcare providers to consider measles as part of the differential diagnosis in patients presenting with a febrile rash illness, especially in unvaccinated patients through September 24, 2011. In addition, the Health District is requesting that any patients identified in retrospect with signs and symptoms consistent with measles after September 8, 2011 are immediately reported to the district.

Serologic testing for measles (rubeola) IgG and IgM is essential in confirming diagnosis. A sample collected 3 days after rash onset is preferred. See the table below for information regarding ordering of measles (rubeola) serology from local reference laboratories.

Laboratory	Test Name	Test Code
Quest Diagnostics	Measles Antibodies (IgG, IgM)	13820
LabCorp	Rubeola Antibodies, IgG	096560
LabCorp	Rubeola Antibodies, IgM	160218

The increased number of measles importations into the United States this year underscores the importance of vaccination to prevent measles and its complications. Healthcare providers are encouraged to review immunization records for children, especially those under 6 years of age, to assure they are up to date with MMR vaccinations and to immunize those who are not in accordance with current recommendations for pediatric immunization.

Nevada Administrative Code chapter 441A.225 requires confirmed and suspect cases of measles to be reported within 24 hours of the diagnosis or suspicion of disease. Reports should be made to the Southern Nevada Health District Office of Epidemiology at (702) 759-1300, option 2, and can be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

More information on measles can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/>