



To: Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN) Participants
Date: February 12, 2008

Additional Cases in Ongoing Measles (Rubeola) Outbreak

An 11-month old infant is the 5th confirmed case of measles in an ongoing measles outbreak initially involving two unvaccinated students from the San Diego Cooperative School in Linda Vista. The most recent case, as well as a 10-month old infant pending measles confirmation, visited Children's Clinic in La Jolla where a confirmed measles case also received care on January 25. Other unvaccinated patients seen on the same day in the same setting have also developed symptoms and are being investigated. Patients seen at the clinic between February 5 and 8 may also have been exposed.

Other settings where susceptible persons may have been exposed include Baldwin Academy daycare, Murray Callan Swim School, Alcott Elementary School Infant & Toddler Development Program, School of the Madeleine, and the San Diego International Airport Lindberg Field. Details of these and other potential exposure settings are provided in press releases issued by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). To access HHS press releases and for updated information, please visit: <http://www2.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/DocSearchResults.asp?DocumentTypeID=1>.

Immediate Isolation and Reporting of Suspect Measles Cases

Patients with suspect measles in healthcare settings should immediately be isolated from other patients. Measles is highly contagious and transmitted by coughing, sneezing or other close contact with an infected person. Parents of infants and unimmunized children should be asked upon arrival (or via phone prior to the visit) if the child may have been exposed to measles during the prior 3 weeks. Exposed unimmunized children should be promptly removed from the waiting room and placed in a private room. If a suspect case is first reported via phone, plans should be in place to isolate the patient upon arrival. Suspect cases should remain in isolation until 5 days after rash onset.

Persons sharing the same air space in a closed environment with a measles case **or** sharing that same air space during the 2 hours after the case leaves are considered exposed if immunity to measles cannot be established. Contact information for exposed individuals will be requested by the Immunization Branch. Recommended control measures may include vaccination or immune globulin, symptom surveillance or social distancing until the 21st day from last exposure. Exposed healthcare personnel without documented measles immunity should be removed from all patient contact and excluded from the facility from the 5th day after their first exposure until the 21st day from their last exposure, even if they elect to receive post-exposure vaccine.

Healthcare providers should not wait for laboratory confirmation to isolate and report suspect cases. Patients with no prior vaccination or disease history who present with unexplained febrile rash illness should immediately be isolated and reported to the County Immunization Branch at 619-692-8661 (evenings/weekends: 858-565-5255).

Recommendations regarding prophylaxis of exposed susceptible persons are provided on the Measles "Quicksheet" located on EMAN in the "News" section. For more information, contact the Immunization Branch at (619) 692-8661. Additional information about measles can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_measles.htm.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)
County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch
Phone: (619) 515-6620/Fax: (619) 515-6644
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255
E-mail: eman@sdcounty.ca.gov
Secure Website: <http://sdeman.org>
Public-Access Website: <http://www.emansandiego.com>