



May 21, 2024

Subject: Measles prevention and control

Dear Healthcare Provider

On March 18, 2024, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) to inform clinicians and public health officials of an increase in global and U.S. measles cases. Many countries around the world, including the European Union and the United States, are experiencing increases in measles incidence and measles outbreaks. There are currently no reported cases of measles in Kentucky, however, we are reaching out to request assistance statewide in preparing for and responding to a measles case and the treatment of those individuals that may have been exposed to measles.

In preparation, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) is requesting that all healthcare organizations and facilities collaborate with their local health departments in developing and/or reviewing your measles response plan. This response plan should include the following:

1. Strategies for screening patients that present with a rash and fever, including patient screening questions about international travel or interaction with international visitors.
  - Consider developing signage to communicate with patients the need to alert healthcare providers immediately upon arrival if they have [symptoms](#) that may be associated with measles.
2. Strategies for [isolating patients](#) that present with a rash and fever. Patients with actual or suspected measles should be placed in negative pressure rooms, when possible, or a private room with the door closed. All healthcare providers should follow guidelines for airborne precautions when interacting with the patient.
  - Plans should include considerations for interfacility transportation of patients, i.e., transportation out of a negative pressure room.
  - Unvaccinated individuals should not care for patients with suspected or confirmed measles.
3. Protocols for [testing](#) patients suspicious for measles. Viral testing via RT-PCR at the KDPH state laboratory is preferred and must be approved by KDPH. Contact your local health department or KDPH prior to sending specimens. For after-hours and weekend support call (888) 9REPORT.
4. Policies and procedures for [post-exposure prophylaxis \(PEP\)](#) administration of MMR vaccine, immune globulin intramuscular (IGIM) or intravenous immune globulin (IVIG), including identification of facilities offering PEP within your local area.

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- Develop protocols and procedure for administering IG for the following populations:
  - Infants less than one year
    - IGIM administration is weight based and may require multiple intramuscular injections. Procedures surrounding site selection should be included in the developed plan.
  - Pregnant women without evidence of measles immunity
  - Immunocompromised adult and/or pediatric patients
- At present, there are limited supplies of IGIM in Kentucky. KDPH encourages providers to review procurement procedures for IGIM and IVIG and verify shipping timelines with your medical pharmaceutical supplier/vendor.

For further information and resources, including protocols, [signage](#), and templates, please refer to the [KDPH measles website](#) and the [CDC Interim Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control](#) for measles. Your contribution to this important public health effort is appreciated. Thank you for all you do in support of the people of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

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