

# Health Advisory: Travel-Associated Measles Cases in Hennepin County

Minnesota Department of Health, Mon June 13 14:00 CDT 2022

## Action Steps

**Local and tribal health department:** Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

**Hospitals, clinics and other facilities:** Please distribute to health care providers who treat patients presenting with new illness.

### Health care providers:

- Assess MMR status of your patients at every clinic visit and vaccinate susceptible persons according to routine MMR recommendations.
- Consider measles in patients presenting with clinically compatible symptoms, especially among those who have recently traveled or who have been in close contact with someone who has recently traveled.
- Isolate suspected measles cases: See [Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings \(www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html).
- Obtain throat and urine specimens for PCR if rash is present: See [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory \(www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html). False negatives can sometimes occur when specimens are collected before a rash is present.
- Report suspected cases and contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414 with questions.

## Background

A case of laboratory-confirmed measles has been identified in a 5-year-old resident of Hennepin County who recently returned from a country endemic with measles. The case was not infectious during travel. A sibling of the 5-year-old later developed symptoms and tested positive for measles. Measles was laboratory confirmed for both children by PCR at the Minnesota Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory.

Exposures mainly occurred at two health care facilities in the metro area. Exposed individuals (contacts) who can be identified are being notified and given information about how to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis, if indicated. Providers are encouraged to call MDH if there is any question about whether an individual should receive post-exposure prophylaxis or how to obtain it.

The initial patient's clinical symptoms included cough, coryza, red eyes, fever and rash. Rash onset occurred on June 7, 2022. Secondary cases in Minnesota would be expected to have onset between now and July 1st. Neither child had received any doses of MMR vaccine.

A case of laboratory-confirmed measles has been identified in a 5 year-old resident of Hennepin County who recently returned from a country endemic with measles. The case was not infectious during travel. A sibling of the 5-year-old later developed symptoms and tested positive for measles. Measles was laboratory confirmed for both children by PCR at the Minnesota Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory.

Exposures mainly occurred at two health care facilities in the metro area. Exposed individuals (contacts) who can be identified are being notified and given information about how to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis, if indicated. Providers are encouraged to call MDH if there is any question about whether an individual should receive post-exposure prophylaxis or how to obtain it.

## HEALTH ADVISORY: TRAVEL-ASSOCIATED MEASLES CASES IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

The initial patient's clinical symptoms included cough, coryza, red eyes, fever and rash. Rash onset occurred on June 7, 2022. Secondary cases in Minnesota would be expected to have onset between now and July 1st. Neither child had received any doses of MMR vaccine.

In Minnesota, the number of children that are susceptible to measles is a significant concern. Some communities in Minnesota continue to have low vaccination rates for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). In addition, vaccination rates for MMR, along with other childhood diseases, declined during the pandemic. According to recent data, the percentage of 2-year-olds who had received at least one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months declined from 81.4% in 2019 (pre-pandemic) to 79.3% in 2021.

Assess MMR status of your patients at every clinic visit and vaccinate susceptible persons according to routine MMR recommendations. The Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) has assessment and improvement tools available to immunizers. Please see [MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources](#) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/index.html#population1>) for user guidance for these tools. Minnesota providers can also participate in a free texting service that notifies clients of overdue/recommended vaccinations. Please see [Reminder/Recall Using Text Messages](#) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/remindrecall.pdf>) for more information.

### For More Information

- [Measles Information for Health Professionals](#) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html#vaccine>)

For question call MDH at 651-201-5414 or 877-676-5414A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](#) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/han>)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.