



COUNTY OF BUCKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Neshaminy Manor Center, 1282 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-345-3318

FIELD OFFICES

Bucks County Government Services Center, 7321 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA 19055 – 267-580-3510

Bucks County Government Services Center, 261 California Road, Suite #2, Quakertown, PA 18951 – 215-529-7000

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BC-HAN Measles

2/5/2015

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Bucks County Department of Health is sharing the following information, in response to the many inquiries we have received. **At the current time, there are no known cases of Measles illness in southeastern Pennsylvania.**

As you are aware, Measles is a **highly contagious** viral illness, characterized first by a prodromal period of 2-3 days, consisting of **fever** (101 F or higher) **and the three C's**: cough, coryza (runny nose), and conjunctivitis (pink or red eyes). The prodromal period is then followed by the eruption of a generalized, maculopapular rash and Koplik's spots. Koplik's spots are present on the buccal mucosa, inside the cheeks (small red spots with bluish-white centers).

Transmission is primarily person-to-person via infected mucous and saliva. After an infected person leaves a location, the virus remains viable for up to 2 hours on surfaces and in the air. A case is considered contagious beginning with the prodromal period until 4 days after rash onset. The incubation period from exposure to prodrome averages 11 days.

If you encounter a patient with a rash illness that you suspect may be measles, immediate isolation of the patient and family (with masking and gloving during examination) is recommended. Please perform serologic testing for measles both IgM and IgG antibodies. If the specimen collection is to be done at a site outside of your office, request that the patient wear a mask while at the lab facility.

When examining a patient, please bear in mind that there are several other viruses that can cause fever and a generalized rash, including coxsackievirus and other enteroviruses. These cases will not present with the 3 C's or have Koplik's spots. These viruses are also circulating widely at this time of year.

Please contact the Bucks County Department of Health promptly, at 215-345-3318, to report a suspected or confirmed case of Measles.

As a reminder, the recommended vaccination schedule is two doses of measles vaccine for ALL children, given as MMR vaccine. The first dose should be given on or soon after the first birthday. The second dose of MMR is routinely given at age 4-6 years. Adult vaccination guidelines are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccination.html>.

A single case of Measles illness in a Bucks County school will be considered an outbreak. In the event of an outbreak, the Bucks County Department of Health recommends that all susceptible persons be excluded from school until they are vaccinated or until no measles cases have occurred for a 14-day period. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>.