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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, Walk-in Clinics, Pediatricians, Long Term Care Facilities, Neurologists, ENT's, OB/GYN, and Pulmonology
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Measles Refresher for Clinicians

Michigan recently identified its first two measles cases of 2026 in an unvaccinated individual from Washtenaw County, with likely exposure acquired in Florida. The second case has been identified as a close contact to the individual. In light of upcoming spring break travel, St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) encourages healthcare providers to maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in patients presenting with febrile rash, particularly those with recent travel or exposure to travelers. Early recognition, prompt intervention, and reporting are essential in controlling the spread of this highly contagious disease.

Clinical Case Definition:

An acute illness characterized by:

- A generalized, maculopapular rash lasting at least 3 days, **and**
- A temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher **and**
- Cough, coryza, **or** conjunctivitis.

Laboratory Confirmation:

- **Arrangements for PCR testing at the state lab are made through SCCHD.** Please contact SCCHD to facilitate this. Testing supplies may be provided when in need.
- **Collect BOTH serum and PCR: throat swab (OP) or nasopharyngeal swab (NP).** Collection of urine may enhance the likelihood of successful measles detection and may be advisable when more than 5 days have elapsed since rash onset.
 - **OP/NP Swab:** Collect as soon as possible, ideally 0-3 days after rash onset, up to 10 days after onset. Submit in viral transport media.
 - **Serum IgM:** Collect **WITH** specimen for PCR. IgM can be negative up to 3 days after rash onset. IgM can be detected for 6-8 weeks after acute measles. This can be performed by commercial laboratories.
 - **Urine PCR:** Collect within 10 days of rash onset. 50 mL, clean catch mid-stream, sterile container.

Recommendations:

- Report **suspect** cases **immediately** to SCCHD at (810) 987-5300.
- Immunocompromised patients may not exhibit rash or may exhibit an atypical rash.
- Isolate patient at home. In a medical setting, implement airborne precautions and use a negative-pressure room. Have a plan in place for seeing potentially contagious patients in a manner that prevents exposing others.
- Assure that patients and staff are protected against measles.
- For additional information, please review [MDHHS Measles Investigation Guidelines](#).