

# HEALTH ADVISORY



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **REGION IV PUBLIC HEALTH**

Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum  
counties and Cowlitz Tribe

**TO: Physicians and other health care providers**

**Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the following Region IV health officers:

**Dr. Rachel Wood, MD, MPH**

Acting health officer

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, (360) 414-5599

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, (360) 795-6207

**Teresa Everson, MD, MPH**

Deputy health officer

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

Skamania County Community Health, (509) 427-3850

### **Alert categories:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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To subscribe or unsubscribe from this listserv, email: [Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov).

## Recommendations for influenza, strep A rapid testing when evaluating possible measles cases

### *Purpose*

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The measles outbreak in Clark County is ongoing. Measles should be considered in the differential diagnosis of persons presenting with fever and a rash, and the Suspect Measles Case worksheet for providers (sent in previous measles alerts) is attached to this advisory for your convenience. The Suspect Measles Case worksheet is also available on the Clark County Public Health website, [www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-health/CD/Resources/Suspect Measles Worksheet 190203.pdf](http://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-health/CD/Resources/Suspect_Measles_Worksheet_190203.pdf).

However, Public Health is aware of multiple instances in recent weeks where patients presenting with febrile rash illnesses were tested for influenza, as well as for measles, and influenza was confirmed as the cause of the patients' illnesses.

To help you evaluate the likelihood that a patient has measles, please consider rapid testing for influenza and group A streptococcus in persons with a febrile rash illness, especially if the presentation is not consistent with the classic measles symptoms described in the attached assessment tool.

Please visit the measles investigation webpage for the latest information on case numbers and exposure sites, [www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation](http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation). For more information about flu surveillance in Clark County, visit [www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/flu](http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/flu).

**Thank you for your partnership.**

LHJ	Phone	Fax
Clark County Public Health:	(360) 397-8182	(360) 397-8080
Cowlitz County Health Department:	(360) 414-5599	(360) 425-7531
Skamania County Community Health:	(509) 427-3850	(509) 427-0188
Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services:	(360) 795-6207	(360) 795-6143



# Clark County Public Health Suspect Measles Case

Probable and confirmed cases are **IMMEDIATELY** reportable to Clark County Public Health\*  
**\*FULLY COMPLETE this form for use only during the 2019 measles outbreak**

Reporting Facility:				
Evaluation Date:	Patient Name:		Patient DOB:	
Patient Address:	City:	County:	State:	Zip:
(If patient is a minor) Patient Parent/Guardian Name:			Patient/Parent Phone:	
Patient MRN:	Evaluating Clinician:		Clinician Phone/Fax:	
<b>Consider measles in the differential diagnosis of patients WITH FEVER and RASH:</b>				
A) What is the highest temperature recorded? <input type="checkbox"/> N/A - Afebrile		°F	Fever onset date: ___/___/___	
B) Does the patient have a rash?		YES	NO	IF NO RASH, DO NOT COLLECT MEASLES SPECIMENS. CONSIDER RULE OUT TESTING FOR OTHER FEBRILE ILLNESS.
C) Rash characteristics:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was the rash preceded by one of the symptoms listed in (D) by 2-4 days?</li> <li>Did fever overlap rash?</li> <li>Did rash start on head or face?</li> </ul>		YES	NO	Rash onset date: ___/___/___  Measles rashes are red, maculopapular rashes that may become confluent – they typically start at hairline, then face, and spreads rapidly down body. Rash onset typically occurs 2-4 days after symptom onset, which includes fever and at least one of the “3 Cs” (below):
D) Has the patient had any of the following?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cough</li> <li>Runny nose (coryza)</li> <li>Red eyes (conjunctivitis)</li> </ul>				
E) Is the patient immunized?		<input type="checkbox"/> Unimmunized <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Born before 1957		Dates of measles vaccine: #1: ___/___/___ #2: ___/___/___
F) Exposure to a known measles case?		YES	NO	Date and place of exposure:
G) Travel, visit to health care facility, or other known high-risk exposure in past 21 days?				<b>Check CCPH website for known exposure sites.</b>

Measles is highly suspected in a febrile patient if you answer YES to B, at least one item in C & D, unimmunized, PLUS YES in F or G.

## IF MEASLES IS SUSPECTED, IMMEDIATELY:

- Mask and isolate the patient (in negative air pressure room when possible).
- Collect **ALL** of the following specimens:
  - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for rubeola PCR and culture (the preferred respiratory specimen)**
    - Swab the posterior nasal passage with a Dacron™ or rayon swab and place the swab in 2–3 ml of viral transport medium. **Store specimen in refrigerator until pickup is authorized.**
  - Urine for rubeola PCR and culture:**
    - Collect at least 50 ml of clean voided urine in a sterile container and **store in refrigerator.**
  - Serum for rubeola IgM and IgG testing:**
    - Rubeola IgM and IgG should be collected and tested by facility’s regular lab mechanism, and at the discretion of the healthcare provider. For additional information, discuss with a CCPH representative.
- Contact Clark County Public Health to report suspected measles case.

**CCPH staff will follow up with your facility to review the case and to approve testing of measles specimens. If testing is approved, CCPH will arrange specimen pickup and shipment to Washington State Public Health Lab.**

Email: [ph.operations@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ph.operations@clark.wa.gov) | Fax: 564-397-8080