

January 18, 2019

Measles Outbreak in Clark County, Washington

Actions Requested

- **Be aware** of measles outbreak in southern Washington
- **Request travel history** for any rash illness suspicious for measles
- **Consider measles** in any person experiencing a rash illness that reports visiting locations listed at the link below on described dates and times
- **Utilize** the attached Measles Assessment Checklist for Providers when evaluating possible measles cases
- **Report any suspected measles case immediately (24/7) at 360-728-2235**

For questions, please contact our Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235

Background

At the current time the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) has received no reports of confirmed or suspected cases of measles and has no open investigations. However, given the mobility of the travelers in Kitsap County, we wanted to make local healthcare providers aware of measles cases in Clark County, some of which involved travel through the Portland International Airport. As of January 17, 2019, there have been 16 confirmed cases and five suspected cases of measles identified in Clark County WA. All cases are children with the majority being unimmunized. More information about public exposure locations can be found at Clark County Public Health's website (link below).

Measles is a viral disease that causes fever and rash. In rare cases, it causes serious complications and even death. It usually starts with a fever, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis. After two to four days of these symptoms a maculopapular rash develops which usually starts on the face and spreads downward to cover most of the body. The rash generally lasts at least three days to a week or more. Measles is highly contagious and is spread through respiratory and nasal secretions. It can remain in the air for two hours after an infected person leaves a room. People are most contagious during the four or five days before and for four days after the rash appears. The incubation period is typically 10 days, but ranges from 7-21 days after exposure.

Resources

1. Clark County Public Health: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/measles-investigation>
2. Washington State Department of Health measles information: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Measles>
3. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measles information: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

Attachment

1. Measles Assessment Checklist for Providers