



HEALTH ALERT

MEASLES EXPOSURE AT LONG BEACH AIRPORT

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) has confirmed one case of measles in an individual who traveled through the Long Beach Airport (LGB) on two separate occasions while infectious. This person departed from LGB on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 6:40 a.m. and again departed from LGB on Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 6:40 a.m. on the same flight, JetBlue flight 1136. Individuals potentially exposed were those present at LGB on March 30, 2019 or April 7, 2019 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Healthcare providers should consider measles in patients with fever and a descending rash who have history of exposure to the Long Beach Airport during the times stated, international travel, or contact to a confirmed measles case, regardless of whether the patient has had 2 doses of MMR. Suspect cases should be immediately reported to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS), even before laboratory confirmation.

Transmission

Measles is highly infectious and is transmitted by airborne spread of respiratory droplets. Measles patients are typically contagious from 4 days before and 4 days after the rash onset. Suspect measles patients should not be allowed in patient waiting areas, should be masked, and placed immediately in an examination room with the door closed. If possible, patients with suspect measles should be seen at the end of the day. The examination room should not be used for two hours after the patient visit.

Clinical Presentation:

Measles symptoms usually begin 10-12 days (up to 21 days) after exposure. Symptoms include:

- Fever, including subjective fever
- Rash that starts on the head and descends
- Usually 1 or 2 of the 3 Cs: cough, coryza and conjunctivitis

Specimen Collection

- Collect throat swab and urine specimen for culture/PCR. Swabs are to be collected using a viral culturette and placed into viral transport media. Collect 10-50 ml of urine in a sterile centrifuge tube or urine specimen container. Keep specimens on wet ice and contact the Health Department as soon as possible to arrange drop off. PCR is strongly recommended for measles confirmation.
- Collect blood for both measles IgM and IgG antibodies





CITY OF
LONG BEACH

Department of Health and Human Services
Communicable Disease Control Program
2525 Grand Ave. Long Beach, CA 90815
(562) 570-4302 FAX (562) 570-4374

Reporting:

In Long Beach, suspect measles cases must be immediately reported by phone to the Communicable Diseases Control Program (CDCP) at 562.570.4302 or after-hours to the Public Health Duty Officer at 562.500.5537.

Additional CDPH clinical and laboratory guidance are attached and can be found here:

- [CDPH Clinical Guidance](#)
- [CDPH Testing Guidance](#)

For more information or questions regarding measles testing and diagnosis, contact the LBDHHS Communicable Disease Control Program at 562-570-4302 or LBepi@longbeach.gov.

