VDH Measles Reporting and Testing Guidance for Healthcare Providers

7/14/26

START HERE

PATIENT SYMPTOMS (NEED BOTH)

- ❑ Fever*
- ❑ Generalized, maculopapular rash

YES

Risk for measles exposure in the past 3 weeks?

- ❑ International travel
- ❑ Domestic travel to an area with known measles transmission
- ❑ Lives or spends time in an area with known local transmission
- ❑ Known exposure to measles

YES

Suspect measles.

Immediately isolate patient and contact local health department or call 866-531-3068.

Refer to specimen collection instructions.

NO

Prior measles vaccination?

- ❑ Age ≤6 years: 1 dose MMR
- ❑ Age >6 years: 2+ doses MMR

YES

Measles uncommon among people with age-appropriate vaccination. Measles can occur among vaccinated people, but generally during intense exposure (e.g., daycare or household exposure).

If measles is suspected based on clinical presentation or severity of illness, contact local health department for guidance.

NO

Received MMR vaccine in the last 21 days?

YES

Measles testing is not indicated. Likely a reaction to MMR vaccination.§

NO

Measles clinical criteria? ¶

- ❑ Fever* and rash

AND

- ❑ Cough, runny nose, OR conjunctivitis

NO

Measles unlikely.

If measles still suspected, contact local health department for guidance.

YES

NO

Does the patient have a fever* and live or spend time in an area with known local transmission?

NO

Measles unlikely. If vesicular rash †, consider varicella or alternative cause of rash.

YES

* Either a measured or patient-reported fever is adequate; fever may not be measured at the time of healthcare evaluation due to normal fluctuation or to use of antipyretics.

† A vesicular rash is not consistent with measles, and should prompt consideration for other causes of rash (e.g., varicella/chickenpox, antibiotic reaction).

¶ Measles clinical criteria (per CSTE case definition) include ALL of the following: (1) generalized maculopapular rash (2) fever (3) cough, coryza (runny nose), or conjunctivitis (also known as the "3 C's").

§ Up to 5% of MMR recipients will get a short-lived, mild febrile rash. This is more common with the first dose of MMR. People who experience this vaccine reaction are not contagious to others around them. If a person has received MMR within 21 days before rash onset, but also has epidemiologic risk for measles, then specialized testing may be required and should be discussed with local or state public health authorities.