

# Measles Update, Concerns and Action Steps

## Dear Colleagues:

There is a significant and ongoing measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico region and on March 11<sup>th</sup>, L.A. County reported its first confirmed case of measles. A common denominator is that most of the infected individuals were unvaccinated.

Given how contagious and deadly measles is, as well as the rise in the number of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated in LA County and nationally, all of us can all do more to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

Below are some key action steps and helpful links to keep you and your team updated. All of the information below are from our colleagues at the LA County Department of Public Health.

### Actions Requested of Providers

- **Vaccinate:** Make sure that all of your patients and healthcare staff are up to date on their measles vaccinations,
  - Encourage, engage and educate your patients on why vaccines are important. While there can be minor side effects, overall, they are safe.
- **Suspect:** Consider measles in any patient who presents with a febrile rash and clinically compatible measles symptoms (e.g., cough, coryza, conjunctivitis), especially if they have not been immunized and have recently traveled abroad or to one of the states currently experiencing outbreaks.
- **Isolate:** Any patients with a febrile rash illness should be immediately asked to don a well-fitting medical mask or respirator, removed from common areas, and placed in a private room with a closed door.
- **Report:** Immediately report suspect measles to Public Health.
  - **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health:** Weekdays 8:30am–5pm: call 213-351-7800. After-hours: call 213-974-1234 and ask for the physician on call.

For more information, please visit LA County Department of Public Health website.

Respectively,

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Chief Health Equity Officer

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Chief Medical Officer

