



FIRE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK
Supplement No. 36 to Department Order No. 34
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2.1.1

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN NY

The New York City Department of Health declared a public health emergency in select zip codes in Williamsburg, following a measles outbreak affecting the Orthodox Jewish community.

To date, 285 cases have been confirmed since the beginning of the outbreak in October, with many of these new cases being confirmed in the last two months. The vast majority of cases are children under 18 years of age (246 cases), and 39 cases are adults. Most of these measles cases were unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated individuals.

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection transmitted by airborne particles, droplets, and direct contact with respiratory secretions of an infected person.

Infected individuals are contagious from four days before the onset of rash through the fourth day after the rash appears.

The signs and symptoms appear around 10 to 14 days after exposure to the rubeola virus and may include:

- High fever – may be as high as 104 to 105 ° F
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Conjunctivitis
- White spots on the inside of the mouth – Koplik's Spots
- A flat, botchy skin rash which tends to begin on the face and then spreads down the arms and trunk then to the lower extremities.

Upon hire, all Fire and EMS members have had measles titers drawn. Anyone with a negative titer will be offered vaccination. Any member wishing to be vaccinated may contact BHS at 718-999-1918.

Members at risk are those who have not been vaccinated, whose blood tests indicate low measles titers, and members who have not had two MMR vaccines.

Until the outbreak is reported to be controlled by NYCDOHMH, all members are to use universal precautions, including the N95 respirator, when providing patient care to persons suspected of having measles.

Chief Officers shall ensure that all members of their commands have been informed of this information. **This order shall be read at all roll calls until April 24, 2019.**

By Order of: **Daniel A. Nigro**, *Fire Commissioner*
John Sudnik, *Chief of Department*