



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

June 6, 2024

Dear Health Facility CEO and CMO:

In light of outbreaks of measles globally and an increase in measles in the U.S., we are sending this communication to stress the key actions your infection control and adult and pediatric medical and administrative staff should take at your health care facility.

To date in 2024, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) has identified nine cases of measles in NYC. Six cases acquired measles while abroad. There continue to be exposures occurring in medical settings, particularly in emergency departments, resulting in large numbers of exposed patients.

We ask that you ensure that your health facility immediately takes the following steps:

- All healthcare facility staff are required by New York State regulations to have proof of immunity to measles. Ensure all staff are in compliance.
- Ensure adequate staff are posted at facility entrances to screen patients for measles, specifically to ask about rash with fever.
- Educate medical staff about the clinical presentation of measles and the infection control steps they should take to prevent exposures. The NYC Health Department has a [measles clinician alert poster](#) that can be placed in locations where clinical staff work.
- Post signage in waiting areas and other locations instructing patients to notify staff immediately if they have a fever and rash. The NYC Health Department has [patient signage](#) available in multiple languages.
- Screen all patients for measles at triage and registration by asking about rash with fever as well as international travel or a history of exposure to measles.
- Measles transmission is through airborne and droplet routes. All patients with signs and symptoms suspicious for measles must be placed in a negative pressure room immediately. If a negative pressure room is not available, mask the patient and place them in a private room and do not use that room for 2 hours after the patient has left. Not placing the patient in a negative pressure room may still result in exposures.

Posters and other resources are available on the NYC Health Department's measles information for providers [webpage \(nyc.gov/health/MeaslesProviders\)](https://nyc.gov/health/MeaslesProviders). You can order printed posters by calling the Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641 between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashwin Vasan".

Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Morse".

Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer