



# Health Alert Network

## Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

## HAN ALERT

Number of pages including cover: 4

Subject: **Alert - Measles Case in Denver County - Jan. 15, 2019**

Message ID: 1/15/2019 6:30:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **Tri-County Health Department is forwarding you the attached HAN. You may have already received this broadcast if you are on the CDPHE distribution list, however, we wanted to ensure you did not miss this important information. No response is required.**

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

### Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Info Service/Public Health Brief:** Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at  
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 01152019 15:50

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Alert – Measles Case in Denver County

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / Clinical Labs / EDs / ID Physicians / Coroners

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies – please forward to healthcare providers

## HEALTH ALERT | Measles Case in Denver County | Jan. 15, 2019

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

### Key points

- An adult resident of Denver County tested positive for measles after traveling internationally, where public health officials believe the case was exposed to the virus. The case is currently hospitalized. It is unclear whether or not this person was previously vaccinated.
- While infectious, this person visited Blue Creek Therapeutic Health Spa and King Soopers in Stapleton on January 10 and Care Now Urgent Care in Stapleton on January 12 and was hospitalized at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver from January 13 to January 14. Visitors and patients to these places may have been exposed to measles.
- Individuals being seen with a fever and rash should be assessed for measles and asked about visiting any of these facilities. **Immediately report all suspect measles cases to your local health department or CDPHE at 303-692-2700, or after-hours at 303-370-9395.** Do not wait until laboratory results are available before reporting suspect measles cases.
- Children younger than 5 years and adults older than 20 years are more likely to suffer from measles complications. Complications can include ear infections (that can lead to permanent hearing loss), diarrhea, pneumonia, and more rarely, encephalitis.

### Background information

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that causes a distinct febrile rash illness. The incubation period for measles ranges from 7 to 21 days. Susceptible individuals exposed to this person could currently be experiencing measles symptoms and may develop symptoms up until Feb. 4, which is 21 days after the patient was infectious without airborne precautions in place.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Denver Public Health are contacting people directly exposed to the case. However, the measles virus is very contagious and unidentified exposures may exist.

People visiting the following locations on the following dates may have been exposed to measles (times are approximate):

Blue Creek Therapeutic Health Spa  
7488 E 29th Ave, Denver, 80238  
1/ 10/ 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SCL Health Saint Joseph's Hospital Emergency  
Department  
1375 E. 19th Avenue, Denver, 80218  
1/ 13/ 2019, 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

King Soopers (Stapleton)  
2810 Quebec St, Denver CO 80207  
1/ 10/ 2019, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SCL Health Saint Joseph's Hospital, 5th floor, West  
Wing  
1375 E. 19th Avenue, Denver, 80218  
1/ 13/ 2019, 8:30 p.m. to 1/ 14/ 19, 2:30 p.m.

Care Now Urgent Care (Stapleton)  
3001 N. Havana Street, Denver, 80238  
1/ 12/ 2019, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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## Recommendations / guidance

The diagnosis of measles should be considered in any person with a generalized maculopapular rash and a fever, especially if accompanied by cough, coryza or conjunctivitis (immunocompromised patients may exhibit an atypical rash or no rash), OR in a person with prodromal symptoms who reports a measles exposure.

### Measles symptoms

#### Prodrome

Fever (usually  $\geq 101$  degrees F)  
Cough  
Coryza (runny nose)  
Conjunctivitis

#### Rash

Usually begins on face 2-4 days after prodrome onset  
Typically spreads downward/ outward to hands and feet  
Typically is a maculopapular rash  
Lasts at least 3 days

### Testing

- Collect a nasal wash, throat (oropharyngeal) or NP (nasopharyngeal) swab for measles PCR testing. Also draw a serum specimen (red top tube or separator tube) for measles IgM testing.
- After consultation with CDPHE Communicable Disease Branch staff at 303-692-2700, specimens from highly suspect cases may be referred to the CDPHE laboratory for testing. Specimen collection instructions can be found on this page:

<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/measles>

### Infection control

- Suspected measles patients (i.e., people with febrile rash illness and people with other respiratory symptoms who report a measles exposure) should be moved from emergency department and clinic waiting areas as soon as they are identified to minimize additional exposures.

- In **hospital** settings, patients with suspected measles should be placed immediately in an airborne infection (negative-pressure) isolation room (if available). If possible, they should not be sent to other parts of the hospital for examination or testing procedures. The exam room should not be used for two hours after the suspect measles patient leaves.
- In **clinic** settings, patients with suspected measles should be quickly placed in a private room with the door closed and asked to wear a surgical mask, if tolerated. The exam room should not be used for two hours after the suspect measles patient leaves.
- Only health care providers with presumptive evidence of measles immunity should have contact with the patient.
- All health care personnel should have presumptive evidence of measles immunity documented and on file at their work location. Current recommendations state that for healthcare personnel, presumptive evidence of measles immunity includes two doses of MMR vaccine or serologic evidence of immunity to measles (positive measles IgG titer).

### Post-exposure prophylaxis

- For people susceptible to measles, MMR vaccine, if administered within 72 hours of initial measles exposure, or immunoglobulin (IG), if administered within six days of exposure, may provide some protection or modify the clinical course of disease. People who have not been vaccinated against measles for whom MMR is not contraindicated (including infants 6-12 months of age) should receive a dose of MMR within 72 hours of exposure to prevent against developing disease. People who are at risk for severe illness and complications from measles, such as infants younger than 6 months of age, pregnant women without evidence of measles immunity, and people with severely compromised immune systems, should receive IG. Infants 6-12 months of age who were unable to get a dose of MMR within 72 hours of exposure should get IG. Physicians with patients who need IG should contact CDPHE or their local health department to ask about obtaining IG.

### Vaccination

- The MMR vaccine is routinely given at 12-15 months of age with a second dose at 4-6 years of age. Infants 6-11 months of age who plan to travel internationally should receive a dose of MMR vaccine prior to travel. Two subsequent doses of MMR still are required on or after the 1st birthday in infants who receive their first dose prior to 12 months of age.

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### For more information

- For more information, physicians, laboratories, and public health partners should contact Meghan Barnes, Emily Spence-Davizon, or Amanda Metz at 303-692-2700.
- For general questions from the public, CO-HELP is available at 877-462-2911.

Clinical information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>.  
**CDPHE Disease Reporting Line:** 303-692-2700 or 303-370-9395 (after hours) 4300 Cherry Creek Drive S, Denver, CO 80246-1530 P 303-692-2000 [www.colorado.gov/cdphe](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe)  
 Jared Polis, Governor | Karin McGowan, Interim Executive Director

