

# When Measles Is Suspected



## ISOLATE THE PATIENT IMMEDIATELY UPON SUSPICION OF MEASLES

- Provide instructions for arrival to facility, including entrance to use and precautions to take (such as wearing mask), put in Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) or private room with door closed.



## WEAR PPE

- Follow guidelines for airborne precautions while in contact with patient.
- Healthcare personnel should have documented immunity against measles.



## OBTAIN A THOROUGH MEDICAL HISTORY

- This should include possible exposures, symptom onset, siblings in home or others who may have been exposed and vaccination status.



## LOOK FOR THE 3-C'S (COUGH, CORYZA, AND CONJUNCTIVITIS) + plus fever and then rash

- Koplik's spots may appear 2-3 days before the rash.



## COLLECT SAMPLES FOR LABORATORY CONFIRMATION OF MEASLES \*

- Preferably nasopharyngeal swab or oropharyngeal swab (or both) for PCR, put into Viral Transport Media (refrigerate at 4°C or freeze). \*\*

\* <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/oc/Documents/FY26-Clinical-Service-Guide.pdf#page=280>

\*\* <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dls/Documents/Multishipperwithcoldpackvirusweb.pdf>



## NOTIFY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (EVEN IF ONLY SUSPECTED CASE): \*

- Follow their recommendations for sending lab specimen to KY State Lab for testing.

\*Local Health Department Listing: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dafm/LHDInfo/AlphaLHDListing.pdf>



**PLEASE DO NOT SEND SPECIMEN TO YOUR NORMAL LAB COMPANY FOR TESTING FOR HIGH SUSPICION CASES!** (Most lab companies take several days to result, which may impede investigations).

- Contact your LHD first, if unavailable, call: **1-888-9-REPORT** (1-888-973-7678)



## OFFER POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)

- Offer PEP to patients exposed to measles with no history of vaccination or immunity.
- The MMR vaccine can be administered within 72 hours of initial exposure or immunoglobulin (IG) within 6 days of last exposure. **(Do not administer together).**



## PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE CARE FOR PATIENTS POSITIVE FOR MEASLES

- There is no specific treatment for measles.
- Encourage fluids, including treatment for fever, discomfort and other treatable symptoms.
- Educate the patient and their family about the contagious nature of measles and the importance of isolation to prevent further spread.
- Monitor the patient for complications, such as pneumonia or encephalitis, and provide appropriate treatment as needed.



## PATIENTS NEGATIVE FOR MEASLES

- Follow up with the exposed individuals after PEP to ensure they have received their second dose of MMR vaccine, if needed.



Scan the QR code to view CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations or visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/measles/index.html>



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Prevent. Promote. Protect.