

Managing Measles Presentations in the WHRA Emergency Department

Measles is extremely contagious and spreads easily through the air. Please maintain vigilance for measles especially among susceptible patients.

Signs and Symptoms

- Fever of 38.3 or higher
- Cough, rhinitis or conjunctivitis
- Red blotchy rash appearing 3-7 days after the fever starts, beginning on the face and spreading down the body
- A potential exposure history

Process

(Ensure masks and alcohol-based hand rub are available at triage)

- Any patient suspected of measles must be isolated. Patient is to have a mask put on immediately.
- Triage suspected patients as expeditiously as possible into an **airborne infection isolation room** (AIIR) to avoid exposure to contacts in waiting rooms.
- Patients with suspected or confirmed measles should be cared for in an AIIR (with door closed) from the onset of symptoms up to and including four days after onset of maculopapular rash.
- If an AIIR is not available, the patient should be placed in a single room away from susceptible patients until transfer to an AIIR can be arranged.
- Immunocompromised patients may have prolonged excretion of the virus from their respiratory tract and likely require a longer duration of additional precautions.
- Susceptible HCWs should not enter the room of a patient with suspected or confirmed measles or the room of a patient who is in the infectious period. In circumstances when this is unavoidable, the HCW should wear an N95 respirator. Immune HCWs do not require additional precautions to enter the AIIR of an individual with suspected or confirmed measles.
- For any transfers (internal or external), advise the receiving facility/unit **IN ADVANCE** the patient is suspected of having measles.
- Report any new suspect/probable/confirmed cases to the site Infection Control Personal (ICP).
- Collect NP swab (preferred) and/or urine for measles virus detection and blood for serologic testing (measles IgG and IgM) if measles is suspected. Submit specimens to Cadham Lab.
- Submit Clinical Notification of Reportable Diseases or Conditions form, available online at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/form13.pdf>
- When sending suspect cases home:
 - Do not send home on public transport with multiple passengers (bus)
 - Preferred option: Use private vehicle with “previously exposed” contacts, if not possible
 - Use taxi with the patient to be masked for full duration of trip and the windows opened if possible

Please see the following links on information on Measles:

Manitoba Health CDC Measles Protocol:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/measles.pdf>

Public Health Agency of Canada–Measles:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/vpd-mev/measles-rougeole-eng.php>