



# Department of Public Health



## MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

## HEALTH ADVISORY

## CITY COUNCIL

DATE: February 13, 2025

### District 1

Alejandra Chávez

**REASON FOR THIS ADVISORY:** To provide information to local clinicians about the ongoing Measles outbreaks occurring in Harris, Lubbock and Gaines County and what steps should be taken should you have a suspected measles case at your facility.

### District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

### District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

### Background Information

### District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

The City of El Paso – Department of Public Health (DPH) is issuing this health advisory in response to increasing concerns regarding the ongoing Measles Outbreaks occurring in Lubbock and Gaines County.

### District 5

Ivan Niño

Measles is an extremely contagious respiratory virus that is transmitted via direct contact with respiratory droplets and airborne. The measles virus can live in a closed airspace for up to two hours after someone with measles was in such space. A person with measles is contagious 4 days prior to and 4 days after the rash onset, with onset of rash date being Day 0.

### District 6

Art Fierro

### District 7

Lily Limón

### District 8

Chris Canales

### Risk Factors

- Unvaccinated against Measles
- Recent international travel (Europe) or travel to areas in United States with ongoing measles outbreaks
- Immunocompromised individuals (Pregnant, HIV, Under chemotherapy or immunosuppressive drugs)

## CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

### Clinical Presentation

The **incubation period** generally is 8 to 12 days from exposure to onset of prodromal symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, nasal congestion). During the prodromal period, a pathognomonic enanthema (Koplik spots) may be present. After prodromal symptoms, a maculopapular rash appears, beginning on the face and spreading cephalocaudally and centrifugally.

**Veerinder Taneja, MBBS; MPH - Director**

Department of Public Health | 200 N. Kansas St. | El Paso, TX 79901

O: (915) 212-6502 | ephealth.com



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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Complications of measles, including otitis media, bronchopneumonia, laryngotracheobronchitis (croup), and diarrhea, occur commonly in young children and immunocompromised hosts. Acute encephalitis, which often results in permanent brain damage, occurs in approximately 1 of every 1000 cases.

### Diagnostic Testing

Measles can be confirmed by detection of viral RNA by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) from posterior nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal or nasal swab specimens (sampling more than 1 site may increase sensitivity); testing for measles virus-specific immunoglobulin (Ig) M may be used in conjunction with RT-PCR testing from respiratory secretions.

**An oropharyngeal throat swab specimen as well as a serum sample should be obtained from any patient in whom measles is suspected.**

Use a Viral transport media (VTM) and tubes with Polyester fiber tipped swabs - either Dacron or Rayon **NO cotton-tipped**. Collect as soon as possible after rash onset, preferably within three days but not more than 10-14 days.

**DPH Epidemiology will assist with PCR sample processing through state laboratory and testing supplies if needed.**

### Reporting of Cases

- Please **IMMEDIATELY CALL** the City of El Paso Department of Public Health - Epidemiology Program upon **SUSPECTING** a potential measles case. Healthcare providers should call to report cases while the patient is still at the facility.
  - City of El Paso Department of Public Health - Epidemiology Program **24/7 Reporting Line: 915-212-6520**
- Please fax the patient's complete medical records as soon as they are available to **915-212-0170** or securely email to [epireporting@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:epireporting@elpasotexas.gov)

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## Infection Control and Identification of Contacts

- Patients suspected of having measles should be placed in an isolation room (preferably one with a negative pressure system) and the room should be vacated for two hours after the patient has left.
- Anyone around the patient needs to follow contact and airborne precautions. Full PPE: disposable gown, gloves, fit-tested N-95 respirator, and face shield.
- Before discharging, inform the patient they must self-isolate until further notice, and notify the patient the health department may be contacting them for additional information.
- Identify all individuals (patients, staff, etc.) who were in the same airspace/room (there is no minimum amount of time) as the measles suspect patient for up to 2 hours after the patient left, possibly exposed and exposed to measles.
- Prepare a list of staff members possibly exposed along with their documented evidence of immunity, and the PPE worn/control measures taken while around the patient. Prepare another list of the possibly exposed patients including full name, DOB, and contact information (or parent/guardian contact information)

## CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Epidemiology Program is available 24/7 for any reports at **915-212-6520**

Or by email: [epireporting@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:epireporting@elpasotexas.gov)

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