



MEASLES ALERT! Pinal County

On January 22nd 2015 four cases of measles in one family were identified by the Pinal County Public Health Services District. The individuals had travel history to Disneyland between **December 16th-20th 2014** and are believed to be linked to the ongoing multi-state outbreak associated with Disneyland. All four family members affected were unvaccinated and reside in the Kearny area. The Pinal County Health Services District is in the process of identifying people that may have been exposed and working closely with the Arizona State Department of Health Services and other related organizations to notify those at risk. Maricopa County has also recently identified a measles case in the Phoenix metropolitan area linked to Disneyland. It is possible that additional cases linked to the Disneyland outbreak may be identified in Arizona. With the current situation it is also possible some local transmission could occur, particularly in unvaccinated individuals.

Measles begins with fever (101 degrees F or higher), red, watery eyes, cough and coryza (runny nose). This is followed by a maculopapular rash (red, raised, and blotchy). The rash begins on the head at the hairline and moves down the trunk to the lower extremities. The rash may last for 5-6 days and turn brownish. Symptoms typically appear 7-12 days after exposure to measles but may take up to 21 days. A person with measles is considered to be contagious 4 days before rash onset (generally one day prior to fever) through the fourth day after rash onset.

The Pinal County Public Health Services District strongly urges all clinicians to:

- Consider measles in their differential diagnosis for all patients with a consistent prodrome and exposure or ANY rash illness (see attached screening and educational tools)
- **Report all suspect cases to your Infection Preventionist and to The Pinal County Public Health Services District 520-866-7325 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, or (520) 866-6239 24/7 reporting line.**
- Place surgical masks and signs at all healthcare entrances alerting **anyone with cough, runny nose, red eyes, fever OR a rash illness to wear a mask BEFORE they enter the hospital/facility**. These patients should tell the receptionist about their symptoms and be evaluated by a healthcare provider before they remove the mask. Ask visitors to postpone their visits to hospitalized patients until symptoms have resolved (English/Spanish entrance signs attached).
- Implement airborne isolation protocols for all patients with rash illness presenting for healthcare until an alternate firm diagnosis is obtained. If airborne isolation is not available, place the patient in a private room with door closed and place a surgical mask on the patient.
- Review and ensure documented immunity to measles for ALL healthcare workers. This includes ancillary staff such as office staff, dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, vendors and volunteers – anyone who may share airspace in your facility with a patient. If such documentation does not exist, we recommend vaccination over serologic evaluation.

Evidence of immunity for healthcare workers consists of two documented doses of MMR vaccine or positive serology or physician documented infection with measles. For those with one vaccine, they may receive a second and return to work. For those born prior to 1957, a single documented dose of vaccine or positive serology is sufficient unless we develop an outbreak in our community, in which case two doses of vaccine would be recommended for all ages.

Pinal County Public Health clinics do have MMR vaccine available for both children and adults. For more information, our immunization webpage is: <http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/Pages/Immunizations.aspx>

The clinic location webpage is: <http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/publichealth/Pages/OfficeLocations.aspx>