Measles Person Under Investigation Algorithm†

West Virginia Department of HEALTH

Measles symptoms* & high clinical suspicion

No → Explore other causes of symptoms

Yes → Potentially exposed to measles or in a high-risk setting in the 7-21 days prior to rash onset?

Yes →
- Place on airborne precautions
- Isolate until 4 days after rash onset

No → Evidence of measles immunity?
- Birth before 1957 (not evidence for HCP)
- Documentation of age-appropriate vaccination
- Laboratory evidence of immunity
- Laboratory evidence of confirmed measles infection

Yes → Explore other causes of symptoms while waiting for test results

No →
- Place on airborne precautions
- Isolate until 4 days after rash onset
- Explore other causes
- If measles is ruled out, vaccinate

Instructions for Healthcare Providers

Isolate¥: Airborne Infection Control (for 4 days after rash onset). Healthcare personnel caring for patient: wear N95 mask even if vaccinated.

Obtain laboratory specimens¥:

1. Sera for Measles IgG and Measles IgM – send to commercial lab
2. Nasopharyngeal or throat swab for laboratory confirmation – send to state lab
3. Urine for measles laboratory confirmation – send to state lab

IMMEDIATELY REPORT to Local Health Department

***Measles Symptoms**

Prodrome:
Fever + Cough, Coryza (runny nose), or Conjunctivitis

Followed by: Rash - maculopapular (flat, red area with small confluent bumps), lasts ≥ 3 days. Starts on face, spreads to neck, trunk, extremities (generalized)

Reminder: Ask patient to call HCP prior to visiting ER or clinic.

Updated April 2024

† Algorithm is NOT intended for clinical evaluation and management.
¥ Detailed information of laboratory testing, isolation, PEP, and management of contacts can be found in the surveillance protocol.