

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
and Immunization Section**

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[www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health)

**Health Alert: Measles in King County – February 17, 2010**

**Action requested:**

- **Be aware of possible community exposures to measles.**
- **Assess contacts for immunity to measles. Vaccinating susceptible contacts within 72 hours of exposure may provide some protection; immune globulin may modify or prevent measles in susceptible contacts if given within 6 days of exposure and could be considered for infants under 1 year old, pregnant women, and immune compromised individuals.**
- **Consider measles infection in patients with compatible symptoms, including: prodrome of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis for 2 to 4 days; generalized maculopapular rash that usually begins on the face; Koplik spots may appear on buccal mucosa 1 to 2 days prior to rash.**
- **Instruct reception staff to identify patients who present with symptoms of possible measles - such patients should wear a mask covering the nose and mouth and be kept away from patient waiting rooms**
- **Report suspected cases of measles to Public Health at (206) 296-4774 immediately. Do not wait for serologic confirmation to report.**
- **Route specimens for measles testing (serology and viral culture of nasal washings and urine) through Public Health to expedite. Do not use a commercial laboratory.**

Public health has learned of a confirmed case of measles in a King County child who was exposed while outside the United States. The child developed a measles rash on Monday, February 15, 2010 after arriving in King County on February 12th. The child was contagious during travel, and had health care visits and community exposures subsequently. The period of time when members of the public could have been exposed is February 12th through February 15th. Illness from these exposures would be expected to have a rash onset between February 19th and March 8th. See the Public Health website ([www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health) - under "Public Health News") for an updated list of venues where the public may have been exposed. Evaluate possibly exposed persons with compatible symptoms immediately. Complications of measles can include otitis media, bronchopneumonia, laryngotracheobronchitis, diarrhea, and encephalitis. Individuals with measles are typically contagious from 4 days before rash onset through 4 days after rash onset. The incubation period is typically 10 days (14 days to rash onset; range 7-21 days). Suspected measles cases should be instructed to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth, avoid public places, minimize contact with others, and stay out of patient waiting rooms. If you suspect measles and/or would like assistance with diagnosis and testing, please contact Public Health immediately by calling (206) 296-4774.

**Resources**

- Public Health Measles Factsheet in multiple languages:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/measles.aspx>
- CDC Measles Resources:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/default.htm>