

Measles Outbreak Declared Over in Central Zone

June 12, 2014

To: All Central Zone Physicians and Emergency Departments

From: Dr. Ifeoma Achebe, on behalf of Medical Officers of Health – Central Zone

Colleagues:

It has been more than six weeks since the last case of measles was identified in the Central and Calgary Zones and as such the measles outbreak declared on April 29th, 2014 has been declared over in these zones, effective today. In total, there were 7 lab confirmed cases of measles identified in the Central Zone during the outbreak. Edmonton Zone is still in an outbreak mode, so there is still a measles risk in Alberta.

Part of our response to the outbreak was to expand measles vaccine eligibility to include infants six months to less than 12 months of age as a means of providing short term protection. We will no longer offer this vaccine to this age group, however routine measles immunization at 12 months and 4 to 6 years will continue as per normal. Children age four and older, who have not yet received their second dose of measles vaccine, are recommended to receive this second dose as soon as possible. Infants travelling to Edmonton Zone or any other areas (within Canada or abroad) in which measles outbreaks are occurring, will also remain eligible to receive an additional early dose of vaccine, if this travel cannot be avoided.

As measles continues to circulate in Alberta, within Canada and around the world, there is still the possibility of importation of this highly contagious disease into our zone. We encourage you to remain vigilant and also ensure that you, your office staff, and your patients are up to date with their immunizations.

Measles vaccine is available, free of charge, through Alberta's publicly-funded immunization program:

- All Albertans born in or after 1970 require two documented doses of measles vaccine, to be protected.
- Children in Alberta are recommended to receive these two doses of measles vaccine, administered at 12 months of age and between four and six years of age.
- Infants who received an additional early dose of measles vaccine during the outbreak must still receive both of these routinely recommended doses (at 12 months of age and between four and six years of age) to be protected against measles.

Testing is recommended if patients have had contact with a confirmed case or have a history of travel to any location that is having an outbreak within Canada or travel outside the country, and meet ALL the following criteria:

- **Fever $\geq 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$**
- **Cough, coryza AND conjunctivitis**
- **Generalized maculopapular rash (typically begins on the face and spreads down)**

If this is the case, please **notify Central Zone CDC at (403) 356-6420 during business hours or (403) 391-8027 after hours**. CDC can assist with making a decision on the need for testing, including assistance with confirming vaccination history of the suspect case. The Medical Officer of Health on call can be reached at (403) 356-6430.

Thank you for your assistance during the duration of the outbreak and your continued vigilance going forward. Please do not hesitate to contact CDC or the MOH for any questions, or to discuss suspect clinical cases.

Sincerely,

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