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**NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Confirmed Measles Case in Spokane County

Actions Requested:

- Be aware that a confirmed case of measles was identified this week at Washington State Public Health Laboratories (WA PHL). The case occurred in a Spokane County resident with a rash onset date of February 15, 2024. This adult was exposed to measles during international travel and became contagious during their return travel to Washington. Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) is actively implementing preventive measures for measles and monitoring the health of those who have likely been exposed. Please note that the measles cluster identified earlier this year in Clark and Wahkiakum Counties has ended, and this case is unrelated.
- Be aware of individuals meeting the clinical case definition of measles:
 - a fever of 101° F or greater; AND
 - a generalized red rash lasting longer than three days; AND
 - one of the following: cough, coryza, conjunctivitis.
- Use the Measles Assessment Checklist attached to this document to assist in identifying potential measles cases.
- Consider laboratory testing when you suspect measles. Testing for suspect measles cases includes ALL the tests listed below:
 - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for rubeola PCR and culture (preferred respiratory specimen)
 - Swab the posterior nasal passage with a Dacron™ or rayon swab and place the swab in 2–3 ml of viral transport medium. Store specimen in refrigerator and transport on ice.
 - Throat swab also acceptable.
 - Urine for rubeola PCR and culture
 - Collect at least 50 ml of clean voided urine in a sterile container and store in refrigerator.
 - Serum for rubeola IgM and IgG testing
 - Draw at least 4-5 ml blood (yields about 1.5 ml serum) in a red or tiger top (serum separator) tube. Store specimen in refrigerator and transport on ice.
- Suspected cases should be instructed to wear a mask covering nose and mouth and triaged away from waiting rooms. Patients should be cared for by clinical staff with documented immunity to measles using standard and airborne infection control

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precautions. After discharge leave the room empty for 2 hours as infectious particles may remain in the air for that time.

- Advise suspected cases of the infectious period for measles and instruct them to isolate at home away from susceptible people until the infectious period is completed or they receive a negative test result for measles. In general, immunocompetent individuals with measles are infectious for 4 days prior to rash and for 4 days after the rash appears. Immunocompromised individuals may be infectious for the entire duration of illness.
- Measles is an immediately notifiable condition. Report all confirmed and probable cases of measles to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department at 360-867-2610 Monday through Friday 8am-5pm and 1-800-986-9050 after hours.

Before receiving the measles diagnosis, the individual was in the following public locations. Anyone who was at the following locations during the times listed was possibly exposed to measles:

- Sunday, Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m.-Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, 12:30 a.m., Spokane International Airport, Concourse B
- Monday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Deer Park Library, 208 S. Forest Ave., Deer Park
- Monday, Feb. 12, 4-8:30 p.m., Rozy's Hot Shotz, 617 S. Fir Ave., Deer Park
- Monday, Feb. 12, evening hours (still being determined), Taco Bell, 807 S. Main Ave., Deer Park
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Creekside Kenpo Karate, 3506 Eloika Rd., Deer Park
- Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, 4:30-7:15 p.m., Horizon Credit Union, 900 S. Main St., Deer Park

If you were at these locations at the times listed above and are not immune to measles, the most likely time you would become sick is between Feb. 18 and March 8, 2024. If an individual is experiencing symptoms of measles (high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, rash) and believes they may have been exposed, they should contact their health care provider.

Background:

Measles is a highly contagious vaccine preventable viral illness characterized by a generalized maculopapular rash, fever, and one or more of the following: cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis. Measles has a distinct prodrome that begins with fever and malaise. Additional symptoms can be conjunctivitis, coryza (sneezing, nasal congestion, and nasal discharge), cough, photophobia, and Koplik's spots (bluish-white specks on a rose-red background appearing on the buccal and labial (lip) mucosa usually opposite the molars).

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The time from exposure to onset of fever ranges from 7–18 days (average 10 days), with the rash onset usually occurring within 2–4 days after the first symptoms appear and up to 21 days after the exposure. Temperatures may exceed 40°C (104°F), and usually fall 2–3 days after rash onset. The rash is maculopapular and begins on the head often along the hairline and spreads downward reaching the hands and feet.

The contagious period for measles is from 4 days prior to rash through 4 days after rash onset. Immunocompromised individuals may be infectious for the entire duration of illness. People at highest risk from exposure to measles include those who are unvaccinated, pregnant women, infants under six months of age and those with weakened immune systems. A person is considered immune to measles if any of the following apply:

- They were born before 1957
- They have had a blood test result that shows immunity to measles
- They have previously had measles diagnosed by a healthcare provider
- They are up to date on measles vaccines (one dose for children ages 12 months through three years old, two doses in anyone four years and older)

Resources:

- [Washington State Department of Health – Measles Resources](#)
- [Spokane Regional Health District Press Release](#)
- [Measles \(Rubeola\) For Health Care Providers \(CDC\)](#)
- [Measles \(CDC\)](#)
- [Washington Department of Health – Measles Recommendations During Outbreaks](#)
- [CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#)

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day): Reporting a Notifiable Condition (thurstoncountywa.gov)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Calls are answered during business hours Monday-Friday 8am-5pm (excluding holidays) and routed to the appropriate communicable disease team member.	Phone: 360-867-2610 Secure eFax: 1-833-418-1916
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable or a public health emergency	Call 1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: [Communicable Disease Updates \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](#)