



Department of Health

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Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 19, 2018

DHDTC DAL 18-16

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

The New York State Department of Health (Department) is issuing this letter to direct your attention to advisories posted on the Health Commerce System (HCS) beginning October 3, 2018, regarding outbreaks of measles in Rockland County. As directed in these alerts, please ensure this information is distributed to the appropriate hospital staff, including the Chief Medical Officer, Infection Control Department, Infectious Disease Department, Pediatric Department, Director of Nursing, Emergency Department Director, Primary Care Clinic Directors, Director of Risk Management/Quality Improvement, and all patient care areas.

While the confirmed measles cases to date have been localized to Rockland County and Brooklyn, some exposed individuals have a history of travel through highly populated venues, including large retail establishments, airports and local hospitals, increasing the risk of spread beyond the greater New York area. In addition, there are currently multiple outbreaks of measles in various countries abroad which pose an additional risk of exposure. It is important that all hospitals include measles in their protocols for the differential diagnosis of patients with fever and rash, especially in those individuals who may not have been vaccinated or those for whom immunity cannot be demonstrated, and in those with a history of international travel.

As measles is highly infectious, hospitals should follow airborne isolation precautions and appropriate infection control measures for any suspected cases. The alerts distributed on HCS provide additional clinical information and guidance on reporting cases to the Local Health Department (LHD) and submitting samples for confirmation. Hospitals in the five boroughs of New York City should also refer to the instructions included in alerts being distributed by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Additional information on isolation and infection control can be obtained on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>

Thank you for your attention and your participation in efforts to contain this outbreak. Should you have further questions, please contact the NYSDOH Call Center at 1-888-364-4837.

Sincerely,

Ruth Leslie, Director
Division of Hospitals and
Diagnostic & Treatments Centers