Measles Screening for EDs

Measles Outbreak: Screening and Preparedness for Healthcare Facilities

Indiana continues to experience a measles outbreak involving multiple counties.

CALL TO ACTION: Please make sure that your facility has a process to identify patients reporting a measles exposure at intake and that frontline staff know what actions to take when a patient screens positive.

A notice that can be placed on facility doors to alert patients who have measles how to prevent exposing others is on the next page.

Please review the following with your emergency department, registration/triage teams, infection prevention staff, and other appropriate personnel:

- Include measles exposure in patient screening. Consider incorporating a question at intake asking whether the patient knows or believes they have been exposed to someone with measles or has been notified of a possible measles exposure. Example: "Have you been told that you may have been exposed to measles, or do you believe you have had contact with someone who has measles?"
- Have a clear plan for a positive screen. Staff should know what steps to take when a patient reports an exposure, including when to mask the patient, separate them from others, notify clinical and infection prevention staff, and assess for symptoms and need for isolation.
- Providers should continue to consider measles in patients with compatible symptoms even when no known exposure is reported.
- Ensure staff know the facility's protocol for suspected measles. Patients with signs or symptoms compatible with measles should be rapidly identified, masked if tolerated, and placed under appropriate airborne precautions to minimize exposure to other patients and staff.
- Manage the room appropriately after a suspected measles patient leaves. Keep the room vacant for up to two hours after the patient leaves and follow facility infection prevention procedures for environmental cleaning and disinfection before the room is returned to use.
- Remind providers of reporting requirements and that IDOH is available as a clinical resource. For 24/7 clinical guidance and for reporting all suspected measles call IDOH by phone at 317-233-1325.

Additional measles information and resources are available on the IDOH measles webpage.