



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

ALERT # 23: Update on Measles in New York City

- 1) The measles outbreak in Brooklyn has ended.
- 2) Children in affected communities no longer need to receive their first dose of MMR vaccine at 6 to 11 months of age.
- 3) All children should be vaccinated on time at 12 months of age, and all older children and adults should be evaluated to make sure they are up to date with MMR vaccine.
- 4) Children ages 6 to 11 months should receive MMR before international travel.

Distribute to Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Practice, OB/GYN, Laboratory and Infection Control Staff

July 22, 2013

Dear Colleague:

The outbreak of measles among Orthodox Jewish communities in Borough Park and Williamsburg, Brooklyn has ended. This was the largest outbreak of measles in the United States since measles elimination in 2000. A total of 58 cases were confirmed; the last case had rash onset on June 9. The outbreak began in a few extended families of vaccine refusers, and it was propagated by children whose vaccinations were delayed. No confirmed measles cases had documentation of vaccination at the time they were exposed to measles.

Although this outbreak ended, international importations of measles pose continued risks of outbreaks in New York City. To achieve high population immunity and prevent future outbreaks, providers must ensure that patients receive their 1st dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine at age 12 months and 2nd dose at age 4 to 6 years. Immunizations should be administered on time with no delay. Providers in affected communities no longer need to administer the first dose of MMR vaccine to infants ages 6 to 11 months. Children aged 6 to 11 months should receive a dose of MMR before international travel; this dose does not count towards completion of the routine schedule.

For assistance with ordering VFC vaccine or generating recall letters for patients who are not up to date with vaccination, call 347-396-2400. Please call DOHMH if you have questions at 347-396-2402 (weekdays 9-5pm) or 212-764-7667 (after hours and weekends). Information about measles reporting, laboratory testing, isolation, and post-exposure prophylaxis is available at: nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/immmea.shtml

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rosen

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