

Date: May 13, 2019

Re: Update for VFC and private providers regarding measles

Although **there have been no cases of measles identified in New Mexico this year**, outbreaks continue in other states and cases may spread to New Mexico at any time. The New Mexico Department of Health would like to encourage VFC Immunization and private providers to be proactive in helping to prevent the spread of measles.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness. To reduce the risk of spread, we ask that you take steps to ensure that all children receiving care at your facility are up to date with their vaccinations.

We suggest routine audits of immunization records of children receiving services and care at your facility. Please contact parents or guardians of children who are not fully vaccinated to get the needed vaccination(s), and specifically the MMR vaccine – your recommendation can be very influential!

In addition, you can post signs in your facilities regarding measles. Signage can be downloaded or printed from the CDC website. In addition, any child or staff with symptoms of measles (e.g., fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye, rash) should be excluded from work or isolated until they can be assessed for measles. Adults who are not fully vaccinated or do not know their immunity status should check with their medical provider.

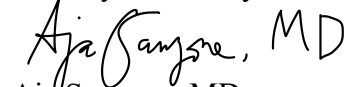
Last, but not least, make sure that staff are prepared. We suggest ensuring that all staff are appropriately vaccinated. Staff should also be familiar with recommendations for managing patients who may have measles (e.g., rooming, personal protective equipment, etc.).

**For additional information or guidance, please contact:**

- On-call Epidemiologist - 505-827-0006 or Immunization Hotline - 1-800-232-4636
- Dr. Christopher Novak - 505-827-0975 or [Chrisitopher.Novak@state.nm.us](mailto:Chrisitopher.Novak@state.nm.us)
- Erica Martinez, Immunization Program – 505-476-1451 or [Erica.Martinez4@state.nm.us](mailto:Erica.Martinez4@state.nm.us)

Or contact the NMSIIS help desk at 833-882-6454 or 505-827-2356 if you need assistance in generating reports of immunization status of children that receive immunizations at your facility.

Thank you for all you do,



Aja Sanzone, MD

Infectious Disease Bureau Medical Director



Christopher Novak, MD, MPH

PHD Medical Director

**Additional resources from the CDC may be located:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles>

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/resources/web-buttons.html> for informational graphics

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**

1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite 1050 • P.O. Box 26110 • Santa Fe, New Mexico • 87502  
(505) 827-2389 • FAX: (505) 827-2329 • [www.nmhealth.org](http://www.nmhealth.org)

