



Heighten Awareness for Measles

November 9, 2023

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) advises healthcare providers to be alert for symptoms of measles and report any suspect or confirmed cases to WCHD. In the past several weeks, Illinois has reported cases of measles in suburban Cook County. While there have been no reported cases in Winnebago County to date, local healthcare providers should consider measles in the differential diagnosis in patients with symptoms consistent with the infection or who report exposure to measles.

If you suspect measles:

- **Immediately place the patient in airborne precautions.**
- Test for measles using a serum IgM test and/or a naso-pharyngeal PCR test
- Provide post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to unimmunized individuals exposed to measles
 - MMR vaccine (within 72 hours of exposure) OR
 - Immunoglobulin (IG) (within 6 days of exposure)
- **Report the suspected case of measles to the Winnebago County Health Department at 815.720.4050. DO NOT WAIT for lab results.**

Measles typically begins with:

- High fever
- Cough
- Followed by a characteristic rash of flat red spots starting at the head and moving distally.
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes

The **symptoms** of measles generally appear 7 to 14 days after a person is exposed but can appear for up to 21 days. Individuals are considered contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears.

Additional Resources:

- CDC: [Measles](#)
- CDC: [Measles Vaccination Information](#)
- IDPH: [Measles Testing Instructions](#)



Winnebago County

Health Department

555 N. Court St. / Rockford, IL 61103
(815) 720.4050

publichealth.wincoil.gov

Health ALERT

