



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Alert

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

**Questions regarding this alert may be
directed to the office of:**

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
Cowlitz County Health Department
Skamania County Health Department
Wahkiakum County Department of Health and Human Services
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ALERT

March 14, 2012

Possible exposure to measles at Open Source Technology Summit, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington, March 6-9

Summary

Portland area and SW Washington including Skamania County clinicians should be aware that an individual diagnosed with measles was in the local area while infectious from Tuesday March 6 to Friday March 9. The measles patient acquired the infection overseas and left the area before seeking medical care. **Some Portland metro area and Skamania County residents could have been exposed and new cases of illness could occur over the next several weeks.**

When to suspect measles

Individuals who may have been exposed to measles include anyone who was at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA on Tuesday March 6 through the morning of Friday March 9.

Most vaccinated individuals and those born before 1957 would not be at risk for disease. In the event that susceptible individuals contracted measles at Skamania Lodge, we want clinicians to be aware that cases could potentially present to medical attention between now and approximately March 23.

Measles is a highly contagious acute febrile, respiratory illness associated with an extensive rash. Illness typically begins with fever followed by development of respiratory symptoms sometimes referred to as the 3 C's of cough, conjunctivitis, and coryza; rash typically begins on about day 3 of illness and spreads from the face to become generalized. Complications include otitis media, pneumonia, diarrhea, and encephalitis. Young infants (under 12 months of age) who have not yet received the MMR vaccine can be particularly vulnerable to measles infection.

Lab testing and Public Health Reporting:

Please report any suspected case of measles to your local health department as soon as possible to facilitate laboratory testing and control of further spread.

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182.
- Cowlitz County Health Department: (360) 414-5599
- Skamania County Community Health: (509) 427-3850
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services (360) 795-6207

Office and Hospital Infection Control:

Measles is highly contagious and can spread through the airborne route as well as through contact with patient secretions. Effective infection control begins with telephone and front office triage emphasizing prompt implementation of isolation as early as possible and minimizing exposures to others, especially unimmunized infants, in health care settings (e.g. waiting areas).

Prevention:

Measles is preventable; please make sure your patients and your staff are up to date on MMR. Health care providers that need additional information may also call metro area health departments.