

Brown County Health & Human Services

Public Health Division

BCPH MEASLES AND EMS TRANSPORT FACT SHEET

With the number of measles cases increasing in the Northeast region, Brown County Public Health (BCPH) is sharing several measles resources:

About Measles

- Measles is easily transmitted from person to person.
- It travels through the air and is one of the most easily spread infectious diseases. It can stay in the air for up to two hours after a sick person has been in a room (or ambulance).
- People can spread the virus 4 days before the onset of a rash and up to 4 days after the onset.
- Signs/symptoms include:
 - Fever \geq 101 degrees
 - Cough, coryza, conjunctivitis (the 3 Cs)
 - Generalized rash

Responding to Calls with Suspect Measles

- When responding to a call, please utilize appropriate precautions if measles is suspected.
- Notify receiving facility of the need for airborne precautions.
- Ask the patient to wear a mask if they are able to.
- Consider increasing the exhaust vent to high and isolating the driver compartment from the patient compartment, if able.
- Please keep a log (or a line list of individuals who had contact with the patient) along with the case ID. If the patient is confirmed or already diagnosed, it will assist with the contact tracing efforts.
- Please work with your employee health for any paperwork that is required. For people who have been fully immunized (2 doses of MMR), they can self-monitor for signs/symptoms 5-21 days after exposure.

Reporting to Public Health and Dispatch Notes

- Confirmed cases of Measles are reportable to Public Health. Once Brown County Public Health (BCPH) is aware of a highly infectious disease case such as measles, dispatch is notified, and a dispatch note is placed on the patient's address indicating the appropriate PPE law enforcement/EMS should utilize (N-95 and gloves) when visiting that address.



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- The dispatch note also requests that BCPH be notified.
 - This allows BCPH to review the vaccine status of those exposed and to assure that appropriate PPE was utilized.
 - When BCPH is notified of the hospitalization, we will also ask how the person was brought in and if they were transported. Having these details ready will save time.
- Please note: When BCPH is working with a suspect or confirmed measles case, the individual will be directed to inform dispatch/the responding EMS in advance that they are suspected of having or have measles, when seeking emergency services, if able.

Resources

- [WI DHS Measles Fact Sheet](#)
- [WI DHS Resources and Data Dashboard](#)
- [BCPH Communicable Disease Website](#)
- [EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#)
 - Measles is airborne. Please refer to yellow “airborne” section pages 30-36.
 - Appropriate PPE for EMS would include N95 respirator and gloves.
 - The virus can stay in the air for 2 hours, so the ambulance should not be used for 2 hours after the transport.

Contact BCPH

If you have questions or would like more information, BCPH can be reached at 920-448-6400 (select the nursing option). You can also email us at bc_health@browncountywi.gov



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