



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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Dear Pharmacist or Pharmacy Manager,

Southeast Michigan is currently experiencing a measles outbreak. Many other states in the U.S. are also facing measles outbreaks and, to date, the number of measles cases in the U.S. since January 1, 2019 has exceeded the number of cases in all of 2018. Outbreaks also continue to effect numerous countries around the world. Measles is a highly contagious disease that can spread very quickly when it reaches groups of people who are unvaccinated.

Pharmacists are a crucial community source of information on vaccinations for potentially life-threatening diseases, like measles. Pharmacists should recommend routine childhood MMR vaccination, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age or at least 28 days after the first dose. Adults need at least one dose of MMR vaccine if they don't have evidence of immunity.

Vaccination is particularly important before any international travel. The recommendations before international travel are:

- Infants 6 months through 11 months of age should have 1 dose of MMR vaccine. If they receive 1 dose of MMR before their first birthday, they still require 2 more doses of the vaccine at the regularly recommended intervals (one at 12 through 15 months of age and another dose at least 28 days later).
- Children 12 months of age or older should have 2 doses separated by at least 28 days.
- Adolescents and adults who do not have evidence of immunity should get 2 doses separated by at least 28 days.

Pharmacists should also ensure that vaccines administered are entered into the Michigan immunization information system, MCIR, so that all healthcare professionals who care for that patient are aware of which vaccines the patient has received. This is important for both children and adults.

More Information

- CDC's measles web page for healthcare professionals: www.cdc.gov/measles/HCP/
- National Measles Cases and Outbreaks: www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html
- 2019 Michigan Measles Outbreak Information: www.michigan.gov/measlesoutbreak
- For measles resources for parents: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/conversations/
- Refer parents with questions or concerns to: www.ivaccinate.org
- Information for healthcare providers (including standing orders) and community: www.immunize.org

Please visit us at our website www.cmdhd.org

- CDC resources: www.cdc.gov/measles/resources

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our communities healthy. Feel free to contact us if there are any ways that we may assist you or further collaborate.

Sincerely,

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