

TN Health Alert Network Communication

Measles Exposure at Large Spiritual Revival Gathering in Kentucky

February 28, 2023

Summary

The Kentucky Department for Public Health has confirmed measles in an unvaccinated individual who attended a large spiritual revival gathering on February 17 & 18 at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky while infectious. An estimated 20,000 people are thought to have attended the gathering on the days that the measles exposures occurred. Travel to Kentucky should be considered when investigating sporadic suspect measles cases, particularly among persons who are college-aged.

Recommendations

In response to a possible increase in cases of measles, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) recommends the following:

- **CONSIDER MEASLES:** Measles is characterized by a prodrome of high fever, malaise, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis, followed by a maculopapular rash. The rash spreads from head to trunk to lower extremities. Measles should remain high on the diagnosis differential for any person who reports recent travel to Kentucky and matches the clinical description for measles.
- **LABORATORY TESTING:** Measles testing can be conducted through the Tennessee Department of Health State Public Health Lab with prior approval from the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program. Specimen requirements include both a nasopharyngeal or throat swab and serum.
- **CASE REPORTING:** Please call 615-741-7247 or 800-404-3006 to report any potential cases of measles and determine if testing is recommended.
- **PREPARE:** To reduce the burden of required furlough for exposed employees, all healthcare settings should have a process in place to record proof of immunity for all employees, such as vaccination records or positive measles IgG titers.

For more information

- TDH Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) Contact Information:
 - Toll Free: 800-404-3006
 - Fax: 615-741-3857
 - Email: VPD.Imm@tn.gov
 - [TDH Reportable Diseases 2023](#)
 - [CDC Measles \(Rubeola\) For Healthcare Providers](#)
 - [CDC Measles \(Rubeola\) Specimen Collection, Storage, and Shipment](#)
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