

OPHCS Alert Sent to Ohio Hospitals on 4/23/2014

The Knox County Health Department and the Holmes County General Health District are working collaboratively with the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate a suspected outbreak of measles in Knox County. As of today, thirteen suspected cases have been identified. All thirteen suspected cases are unvaccinated. The index case recently travelled to the Philippines which is currently experiencing a large outbreak of measles. Two other cases travelled with the index case but developed symptoms approximately two weeks later. Ten additional cases, primarily household contacts of the original three cases subsequently developed symptoms.

Clinicians should have a high index of suspicion for measles in persons with a compatible clinical syndrome in the following situations:

1. Exposure to a measles case or someone with a compatible clinical syndrome
2. Recent travel to the Philippines
3. Exposure to someone that has recently traveled to the Philippines

Please contact your local health department immediately to report a suspected case and to arrange for the shipping of specimens to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory. DO NOT WAIT for serological confirmation to report.

All healthcare personnel in Ohio, including volunteers and support staff, should demonstrate measles immunity or two doses of MMR vaccine.

Additional information on measles can be found on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/>