

**MnVFC Announcement**

Date: February 12, 2024

To: MnVFC Provider

From: MnVFC Program

Re: **Measles in Minnesota – What MnVFC Providers Need to Know**

Please route to:

- Clinical supervisor
- Medical director
- Clinic manager
- Clinic staff
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine staff

A laboratory-confirmed case of measles was recently identified in an unvaccinated 16-month-old Minnesotan who recently returned to the U.S. after international travel [[Health Advisory: Travel-Associated Measles - MN at Risk for More \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/2024/feb7measles.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/2024/feb7measles.pdf)].

Now is a crucial time to vaccinate persons who need MMR vaccine or are overdue by assessing MMR vaccination status of patients at every visit and vaccinating susceptible persons, especially among those traveling internationally. In 2023, only 78.7% of 2-year-olds in Minnesota received one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months compared to 83.8% in 2019 (pre-pandemic).

MDH can provide support with texting for patients in need of MMR through a new, free initiative. Clinics who partner with MDH to text reminder/recall notices can include information to help clients obtain a vaccination appointment. The text messages are also available in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. For more information, reach out to [health.miictexting@state.mn.us](mailto:health.miictexting@state.mn.us).

The current measles situation is an opportunity to restart conversations with patients about the importance of vaccination. Many parents just need reassurance that the MMR vaccine is safe and will protect their child. These CDC resources provide communication strategies and tips for effectively addressing questions from patients: [CDC: Talking to Parents about Vaccines Materials \(www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html).

For parents or patients who decline MMR for themselves or their children, counsel them that unvaccinated persons could be excluded from childcare/school/work for 21 days or longer if exposed to measles.

Lastly, be on high alert for measles in patients presenting with rash, fever, and cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis and especially among those persons with recent international travel or contact with persons recently returning from international travel. Report suspected and confirmed cases to MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free).

MnVFC Program  
651-201-5522 or 1-800-657-3970  
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