

April 19, 2019

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<City> <State> zipcode5-zipcode4

Dear Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to notify providers about covered services offered through Michigan Medicaid that are important in the prevention and management of measles infections. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), along with local public health officials, are continuing to see an elevated number of measles cases in the southeast region of the state. Michigan has already seen the most cases in a year since 1991.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact and through the air. The virus can live for up to two hours in the air where the infected person was present. Symptoms of measles usually begin 7-14 days after exposure, but can appear up to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever (may spike to over 104°F).
- Cough.
- Runny nose.
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis).
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums, and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) 2-3 days after symptoms begin.
- A rash that is red, raised, and blotchy. It usually starts on the face, then spreads to the trunk, arms, and legs 3-5 days after symptoms begin.

If symptoms develop, providers are encouraged to urge their patients to call their office or emergency room before arriving so they can take precautions to prevent exposure to other individuals.

The measles vaccine is highly effective and very safe. A single dose of measles vaccine protects about 95 percent of children, but after two doses, almost 100 percent are immune.

The first of two routine childhood measles vaccine doses are given at 12-15 months of age. A second vaccine dose is given before the start of kindergarten, between ages 4 and 6.

Healthcare providers are asked to consider measles in their differential diagnosis when patients present with fevers accompanied by rash. Providers should promptly report any suspect cases of measles to their local health department and obtain laboratory specimens that can be submitted to the state of Michigan laboratory for confirmation. Laboratory specimen submission should be coordinated through the local health department. Guidance on specimens to obtain and instructions for the submission of specimens to the laboratory are found in the Outbreak Investigation Guidelines found at: www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Measles_388976_7.pdf.

MDHHS follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and does not recommend routine measles vaccinations for children less than 12 months of age unless:

- there is a suspected measles exposure;
- there is thought to be an imminent measles exposure such as being in areas of known measles; or
- international travel is planned. For international travel, infants as young as 6 months should be vaccinated against measles.

Measles vaccine, or other acceptable documentation of immunity to measles, is recommended for all persons travelling internationally.

The vaccine is effective within 72 hours of exposure to prevent illness. In addition, immune globulin (Ig) treatment is effective within six days of exposure for high-risk individuals. High-risk individuals include:

- pregnant women, and
- those who are immune-compromised.

MDHHS is working closely with local health departments to identify possible exposure locations. A listing of exposure locations is available online at www.Michigan.gov/MeaslesOutbreak.

Covered Services

Michigan Medicaid, MIChild and the Healthy Michigan Plan cover the following services to help address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of measles and related health conditions, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services for children under 21 years of age.

Preventive Services

Measles vaccinations (pre-exposure and post-exposure) are a covered Medicaid benefit. As always, vaccination efforts should be supplemented by health education.

Diagnostic Services

Medically necessary laboratory testing, including diagnostic testing for the measles virus, is covered when provided by a qualified, Medicaid-enrolled laboratory.

Treatment

The following services are covered to treat individuals with active measles infection when provided in alignment with current Medicaid policy:

- Practitioner office visits and services.
- Prescribed drugs as identified on the appropriate formulary.
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services.

Providers may check with the Medicaid Health Plans regarding additional services that may be covered for beneficiaries enrolled in a health plan.

Additional Resources

For more information about measles, visit www.CDC.gov/measles. For more information about Michigan's current measles outbreak, visit www.Michigan.gov/MeaslesOutbreak.

In an effort to help parents protect their children from serious vaccine-preventable diseases, MDHHS is participating in the I Vaccinate campaign. I Vaccinate provides the facts parents need to make informed decisions about vaccinations. For more information about immunizations and the I Vaccinate campaign, visit www.IVaccinate.org.

Additional information about Medicaid-covered services can be found in the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,



Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director
Medical Services Administration