

## Check measles vaccination status of patients

The United States is experiencing a large, multi-state outbreak of measles. Between Jan. 1 and Feb. 20, 154 people from 17 states were reported to have measles. No cases have been reported in Kansas. During measles outbreaks, efforts should be made to ensure that everyone at risk for exposure and infection is protected against measles through vaccination or past infection.

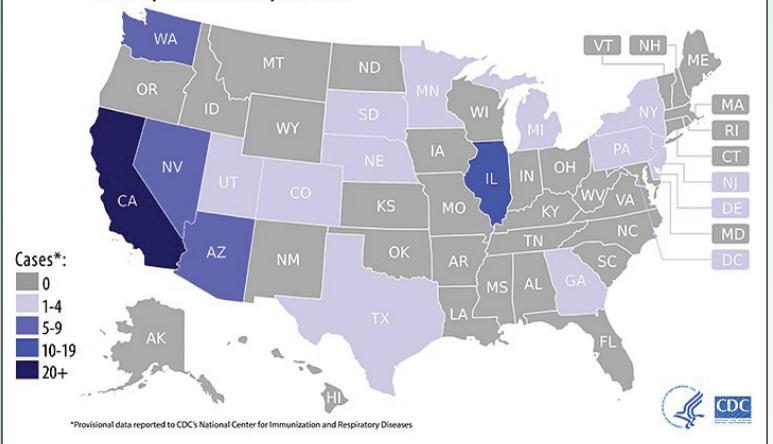
Health care providers should be vigilant about measles by:

- Ensuring all patients are up to date on the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Considering measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms

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### 2015 Measles Cases in the U.S.

January 1 to February 20, 2015



## New online course can help providers approach patients about tobacco use

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is now offering a free comprehensive online training that follows best practice guidelines for health care providers to help patients quit tobacco.

The online training can be used by a range of providers — doctors, nurses, front office staff, dentists, dental hygienists, respiratory therapists. The interactive, multi-media online course takes approximately 45 minutes. The training will teach providers to:

- Use the brief intervention with all patients who use tobacco.

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## Pneumococcal vaccines for seniors now covered by Medicare, Medicaid

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently approved coverage for the both pneumococcal vaccines — Pneumovax (PPSV23) and Prevnar (PCV13) — for people ages 65 and older. This follows the latest Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. These vaccines will be covered under Medicare Part B; however, to meet Medicare guidelines for reimbursement, the vaccines must be given at least 12 months apart.

CMS also has stated that if clients have received PCV13 since Sept. 19, 2014, and were denied coverage, the client or agency may re-submit the claim for reimbursement.

The Health Department provides both vaccines.

## Douglas County Disease Report

| Disease category         | Disease name                   | Nov. 2014 | Dec. 2014 | Jan. 2015 | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Enteric                  | Campylobacteriosis             | 1         | 0         | 5         | 6     |
|                          | Cryptosporidiosis              | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1     |
|                          | Giardia                        | 1         | 1         | 0         | 2     |
|                          | Salmonella                     | 1         | 1         | 0         | 2     |
|                          | STEC                           | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1     |
| General                  | Hepatitis B, chronic           | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1     |
|                          | Hepatitis B, pregnancy         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1     |
|                          | Hepatitis C                    | 5         | 4         | 7         | 16    |
|                          | Hemophilus Influenza, invasive | 0         | 0         | 2         | 2     |
|                          | Strep pneumo. invasive         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 2     |
| Vector-borne             | Ehrlichiosis                   | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1     |
|                          | Lyme                           | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1     |
| Vaccine-preventable      | Varicella                      | 0         | 3         | 0         | 3     |
| STDs (tested at HD only) | Chlamydia                      | 10        | 12        | 7         | 29    |
|                          | Gonorrhea                      | 1         | 4         | 0         | 5     |
|                          | Syphilis                       | 4         | 1         | 2         | 7     |

This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: Confirmed, probable and suspect.

## KDHE offers new training on tobacco intervention

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- Refer patients who are ready to quit to the Kansas Tobacco Quitline.
- Describe FDA-approved pharmacotherapy to help patients stop using tobacco.
- Describe the benefits of the Kansas Tobacco Quitline for patients and providers.
- Describe other resources available to patients and providers.

The training includes audio clips of tobacco quitline phone counseling sessions and demonstrations of clinicians delivering the brief intervention to a tobacco user. Currently, the training provides CME credit from the American Academy of Family Physicians and CE credit from the Kansas Dental Board.

Registration for the training is available at <http://www.kstobaccointervention.org>.

### 24-7 EPI hotline

To alert the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department to a reportable disease after hours, please use this number: **785-856-7305**.

# Providers urged to check on patients MMR status

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(cough, or runny nose and conjunctivitis), and asking patients about recent travel internationally or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles exposures.

- Promptly isolating patients with suspected measles to avoid disease transmission and immediately report the suspect measles case to the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.
- Obtaining specimens for testing from patients with suspected measles, including viral specimens for genotyping, which can help determine the source of the virus.
- Treating severe measles cases among children, such as those who are hospitalized, with vitamin A. Vitamin A should be administered immediately on diagnosis and repeated the next day.

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The Health Department is encouraging residents to check their immunity for measles by looking at their immunization records or getting a blood test through their health care provider. If residents do not know their status and do not want to pay for a blood test, they should follow the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention measles vaccination recommendations below:**

- Children should receive two doses of MMR vaccine — the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose 4 through 6 years of age. Giving the second dose of the vaccine earlier is allowed at any time as long as it is at least 28 days after the first dose.
- Unless they have evidence of measles immunity, college and other students, health care personnel, and international travelers need two appropriately spaced doses and other adults need one dose.
- People who received two doses of MMR vaccine as children according to the U.S. vaccination schedule are considered protected for life.
- People born before 1957 are considered immune and do not need a vaccination.

**For those who travel internationally, CDC recommends** that all U.S. residents older than 6 months be protected from measles and receive MMR vaccine, if needed, prior to departure.

- Infants 6 through 11 months old should receive one dose of MMR vaccine before departure.
- Children 12 months of age or older should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days).
- Teenagers and adults without evidence of measles immunity should have documentation of two appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department offers the MMR vaccine on a walk-in basis. The Health Department accepts all insurance. The Health Department does not provide blood tests to check measles immunity.