



This alert contains information on investigations in progress and/or diagnoses that may not yet be confirmed. The Physician Alert is intended primarily for the use of local health care providers, should be considered privileged, and should NOT be distributed further.

Rash in Patients with Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza – 2015

Since March 2015, multiple states have notified CDC of patients with morbilliform (i.e. maculopapular) rash and laboratory-confirmed influenza (primarily influenza B), without laboratory evidence of measles. Rash has historically been a rare complication of influenza. As of today, Washoe County Health District (WCHD) already identified one such case. Laboratory testing for influenza among reported suspect measles cases with negative PCR for measles is pending. More findings will be published via Epi-News in the near future. To assist CDC in case finding, WCHD will continue reporting cases meeting the following criteria to CDC:

1. Presence of morbilliform (i.e. maculopapular) rash AND
2. Laboratory-confirmed influenza (by rapid diagnostic test, fluorescent antibody test, enzyme immunoassay test, RT-PCR test, or viral culture) AND
3. Negative measles testing (by IgG, IgM antibody serology or RT-PCR test) AND
4. Onset of both rash and influenza-like illness on or after October 1, 2014

Influenza-like illness is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater), and cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza. The WCHD requests that healthcare providers consider adding influenza testing to their normal diagnostic practice when evaluating patients with acute rash and influenza-like illness. Additionally, these cases should also be reported to the WCHD by faxing to 775-328-3764.

University of Oregon Meningococcal Disease Outbreak, 2015

Six cases of serogroup B meningococcal disease have been reported among University of Oregon students with onsets during January 13 – March 15, 2015. The outbreak is considered ongoing. Most of the cases involved meningococemia rather than meningitis, and many presented initially with nonspecific symptoms. Because many students will be home or traveling during Spring Break (March 20–29), WCHD asks healthcare providers in Washoe County:

- To suspect the disease in University of Oregon students who present for acute medical care; AND
- Promptly report any case of meningococcal disease in a University of Oregon student to WCHD at 775-328-2447 (24/7).

If the person is associated with this outbreak and has questions regarding serogroup B vaccine availability, please direct him/her to call the Albertsons/Safeway support center at 503-557-4252 to find the nearest location that he/she can receive the vaccine.

For more information on vaccine availability outside of Oregon, visit <https://healthcenter.uoregon.edu/getthevax.aspx>.

Sources: CDC's Epi-X (The Epidemic Information Exchange) March 24, 2015