



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health




GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

March 7, 2019

IZB-FY-18-19-10

TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, MD, MPH, Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: MMR before overseas travel to protect your patients against measles

Background

Travelers infected outside of North America can spread measles in the United States. California has had five reported measles cases in 2019, including two infants aged 6-11 months who were not vaccinated before travel overseas, in contrast to national recommendations. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are urging healthcare professionals to ensure that all patients are up to date on their recommended doses on MMR vaccine, **including an early dose for infants 6-11 months of age who will be traveling overseas.**

What should clinicians do?

- Ensure that all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine.
- Screen patients for international travel. Before travel outside of North America,
 - Infants aged 6-11 months should receive one early dose of MMR vaccine, followed by two MMR doses starting at age 12-15 months.
 - Children 12 months and older should receive two doses separated by at least 28 days
 - Teenagers and adults without evidence of measles immunity should receive two doses separated by at least 28 days.
- Use [this sign](#) to alert parents to the possible need for MMR vaccine before international travel. Discuss the importance of MMR vaccine with parents.
- Consider the possibility of measles in patients with acute febrile rash illnesses, especially if they have had contact with international travelers. Please see updated [CDPH measles clinical guidance](#).



Measles Reference and Resources

CDC Measles Resources

- CDC has a full suite of resources to share with parents, including printable fact sheets, posters, and printable infographics:
<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/resources/parents-caregivers.html>
- CDC has also posted a recent article for parents about measles that you can link to from your clinic's websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/measles/>
- For more information, including guidelines for patient evaluation, diagnosis and management, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html>

CDPH Measles Resources

- For additional resources, visit the [Measles Resource page](#) on EZIZ.org.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC) or visit www.eziz.org.