



To: TNHAN

From: Michelle Fiscus, MD, FAAP, Medical Director,  
Tennessee Immunization Program

Date: May 7, 2019

**Subject: Measles "When to Test" algorithm for health care professionals**

Thanks to all for your continued diligence in screening acute care patients for possible infectious measles. As of today, there have been five confirmed cases of measles in Tennessee in 2019. Since identifying the index case, four individuals who had close contact with the index case during the infectious period have developed measles. While there are still several individuals in quarantine, each day that passes without a newly confirmed case is a win. The incredible effort by our regional and metropolitan public health partners to rapidly identify and quarantine exposed individuals, along with our state's generally high immunization rates, can be credited with the containment of what might have otherwise been a significant outbreak.

While the incubation period for those who were exposed to the index case has ended for most, it is important that we keep measles in the differential of any person who presents with acute onset of fever (typically  $>101^{\circ}$ ), cough, coryza (runny nose) or conjunctivitis, with or without the onset of a pink maculopapular rash originating on the face and spreading to the trunk and then extremities. Keep in mind that the MMR vaccine is highly effective, making it **very unlikely** (although not impossible) that a vaccinated individual will become infected with measles. Referencing the attached algorithm should assist health care professionals in discerning when they should be concerned.

The Tennessee Department of Health is available for consultation should a health care professional have concern that a patient may be infected with measles. It can be difficult to distinguish more common viral syndromes from measles; we're happy to assist. Please contact your local health department or call 615-741-7247 (available 24/7) if assistance in clinical decision making is needed and any time measles is suspected.

Thank you for all you do to ensure the health and safety of all Tennesseans!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Fiscus MD".

Michelle Fiscus, MD, FAAP

Medical Director, Tennessee Immunization Program