**MEASLES ALERT!**

**Maricopa County**

On April 7th 2014, a confirmed case of measles was reported to Maricopa County Department of Public. The unvaccinated individual recently returned from a trip from Europe where measles has been circulating widely. This individual was in multiple public locations and likely exposed others to measles. Public locations of possible exposures as well as dates and times are as follows:

* March 29th- Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport Terminal 4, 6:30pm until 10:00pm
* March 30th- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Cave Creek Chapel, 38008 N. Basin Rd in Cave Creek (Desert Ridge and Pinnacle Peak Wards) from 1:00pm until 5:00pm.
* March 31st- Wildflower Bread Company, 15640 N. Hayden Rd, Scottsdale, 12:00pm until 5:00pm
* March 31st- Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport Terminal 4, 3:00pm until 7:00pm

Prodrome symptoms of fever, cough, coryza, conjunctivitis in susceptible individuals from exposure to this case may surface as early as April 8th, with rash symptoms showing up by April 12th. We URGE the following steps:

Implement airborne isolation protocols for all patients with rash illness presenting for healthcare until and unless an alternate firm diagnosis is obtained. If airborne isolation is not available, place the patient in a private room with door closed and place a surgical mask on the patient

Immediately evaluate hospitalized patients with rash illness for potential need for airborne isolation. The illness begins with symptoms which include fever (101 degrees F or higher), red, watery eyes, cough and coryza (runny nose). This is followed by a maculopapular rash (red, raised, and blotchy). The rash begins on the head at the hairline and moves down the trunk to the lower extremities. The rash may last for 5-6 days and may turn brownish. Symptoms typically appear 7-12 days after exposure to measles but may take up to 21 days. A person with measles is considered to be contagious through the fourth day after rash onset.

Place surgical masks and signs at all hospital/healthcare entrances alerting **anyone with cough, runny nose, red eyes, fever OR a rash illness to wear a mask BEFORE they enter the hospital/facility**. These patients should tell the receptionist about their symptoms and be evaluated by a healthcare provider before they remove the mask. Ask visitors to postpone their visits to hospitalized patients until symptoms have resolved (entrance instructions in English and Spanish are attached)

Review immunity to measles for ALL healthcare workers. This includes ancillary staff such as office staff, dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, etc – anyone who may share airspace in your facility with a patient. Ensure that all of your workers have documented immunity to measles. If such documentation does not exist, we recommend vaccination over serologic evaluation.

Evidence of immunity for healthcare workers consists of two documented doses of MMR vaccine or positive serology or physician documented infection with measles. For those with one vaccine, they may receive a second and return to work. For those born prior to 1957, a single documented dose of vaccine or positive serology is sufficient unless we develop an outbreak in our community, in which case two doses of vaccine would be recommended for all ages.

Consider asking all regular vendors and volunteers to present proof of immunity to measles prior to entering the facility

Have clinicians consider measles in their differential diagnosis for all patients with a consistent prodrome and exposure or ANY rash illness and **report all suspect cases to your Infection Preventionist and to Maricopa County Department of Public Health (602) 506-6767 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, or (602) 747-7111 24/7 reporting line.**

Attached are some diagnostic algorithms and potential instructions to patients with suspected measles or their contacts that you may find useful.