



North Central Wisconsin
Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition

NCW HERC

<http://www.ncw-herc.org/>

Important First Responder Recommendations:

As of May 17, 2019, the CDC has reported that 880 individual cases of measles have been confirmed across 24 states. This includes three of Wisconsin's four neighboring states.

As the number of measles cases continue to increase, it is important to note that many of CDC's recommendations apply to first responders. First responders should educate themselves on agency policies and procedures regarding measles as well as the disease and symptoms in order to be best prepared to care for patients. Extra precautions should also be taken by personnel to protect themselves from potential measles exposure. Some recommendations for first responders, particularly those providing EMS care include:

Vaccination - Confirm your vaccination status. Vaccination is considered proof of immunity. You can check your status by:

- Contacting your primary health care provider
- Checking the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) <https://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/pr/clientSearch.do?language=en>

Protective Equipment and Procedures - All first responders should use standard precautions during all patient encounters. Measles is a highly contagious viral infection spread via the airborne route, so in order to minimize the risk, the following is recommended:

- Only those who are known to be immune should approach patients who may have measles
- First responders should wear particulate respirators (e.g. N-95)

Notification to Receiving Facility - Notify receiving facilities prior to arrival of known or suspected measles patients to facilitate implementation of appropriate infection prevention procedures.

Transportation - Since the measles virus can survive on contaminated surfaces or hang in the air for up to two hours, ambulances and transport vehicles should be taken out of service for a minimum of two hours after transport of a patient with known or suspected measles. Consider use of NCW HERC ultraviolet light disinfection lamps pre-staged at local neighboring hospitals, as an additional cleaning method.

Report and Evaluation of Exposure - First responders who are potentially exposed to measles should consult with health care and public health professionals.

For more information about measles disease including signs and symptoms – use the links below:

[WI DHS Measles Fact Sheet](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/signs-symptoms.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/faqs.html>

If you have any questions, please contact your local health department.

Respectfully,
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