

Measles Case at the Skookum Festival and Other Sites in VCH

As you may already be aware, a lab-confirmed case of measles attended various locations in Vancouver between September 8 – 11, 2018. The VCH Measles Alert can be found here: <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/measles-alert-for-several-Vancouver-locations>. Times and locations of exposures are listed below and include a two-hour window during which measles virus is still airborne and active:

- Saturday, Sept. 8th: Skookum Festival, Stanley Park, 5 p.m. – 1 a.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 8th: Aquabus from Olympic Village to Hornby Street, approximate trip start was 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 8th: Canada Line from Vancouver City Centre to Broadway-City Hall Station, 11 p.m. – 1 a.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 9th: Outdoor Community Block Party (1188 Quebec Street), 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 9th: Main Street bus from Terminal Station to Broadway, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 11th: Noodlebox Mount Pleasant (2511 Main Street), Noon – 6 p.m.

Anyone who may have contracted measles from these exposures would be expected to develop symptoms between September 16th and September 23rd, with the latest possible date of symptom onset being October 2nd. During this period of time, we ask that all physicians keep in mind the following key points:

- Measles initially presents with a **fever, cough, runny nose and conjunctivitis**. Three to four days after fever onset, an **erythematous maculopapular rash** begins in the hairline, which then spreads rapidly to the face, trunk and limbs. Koplik spots, if present, fade as the rash appears.
- To confirm the diagnosis, please collect a **nasopharyngeal or throat swab and urine specimen** for measles virus detection by RT-PCR, **and bloodwork for serologic testing** (measles IgG and IgM).
- **Promptly isolate patients with suspect measles** into either a private room or a negative-pressure room, if available. Measles is airborne and highly infectious. The patient should remain masked during the entirety of the appointment and the exam room should not be used for two hours after the patient has left. Suspect cases will need to stay isolated at home until four days after rash onset.
- **Immediately notify Public Health of all suspect measles cases**, preferably while the patient is in your office. A Medical Health Officer is available 24 hours a day:
 - 604-675-3900, Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 - 604-527-4893, after-hours and weekends

You can reach a Medical Health Officer in Vancouver at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Medical Health Officers
Dr. Patricia Daly (Chief Medical Health Officer)
Dr. Réka Gustafson, Dr. John Harding, Dr. James Lu, Dr. Emily Newhouse

To receive Physicians' Updates by email please contact us at: vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca