

# Public Health Alert: Potential Measles Exposure at Newark Liberty International Airport

*Contact A Health Care Provider If You Suspect Exposure*

On September 28, 2018, an international traveler from Israel who has been confirmed to have measles—a highly contagious disease—arrived in Terminal B at Newark Liberty International Airport on a flight from Tel Aviv. The individual was infectious on that day and may have traveled to other areas of the airport. If you were in the airport on September 28 between 5:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., you may have been exposed to measles, and if infected could develop symptoms as late as October 19. The individual traveled on to Rockland County, NY and there were no further exposures in New Jersey.

**Anyone who suspects an exposure is urged to call a health care provider before going to a medical office or emergency department. Special arrangements can be made for evaluation while also protecting other patients and medical staff from possible infection.**

Measles symptoms include rash, high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. It can cause serious complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis (swelling of the brain). Measles infection in a pregnant woman can lead to miscarriage, premature birth or a low-birth-weight baby. Measles is easily spread through the air when someone coughs or sneezes. People can also get sick when they come in contact with mucus or saliva from an infected person.

Anyone who has not been vaccinated or has not had measles is at risk if they are exposed. "Two doses of measles vaccine are about 97 percent effective in preventing measles," said Dr. Christina Tan, state epidemiologist.

"We urge everyone to check to make sure they and their family members are up-to-date on measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine and all other age-appropriate immunizations. Getting vaccinated not only protects you, it protects others around you who are too young to get the vaccine or can't receive it for medical reasons. If you're planning an international trip, the World Health Organization recommends that adults or adolescents unsure of their immune status get a dose of measles vaccine before traveling," Dr. Tan added.

A document with information on what to do if you've been exposed to measles is available on our website:

[http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/measles/measles\\_exposure\\_guidance\\_public.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/measles/measles_exposure_guidance_public.pdf)

For more information about measles, contact your health care provider, or visit the New Jersey Department of Health website at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/measles.shtml>

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web site has additional information at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

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