

# Patient Safety Alert

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March 4, 2019



## Measles and Mumps Outbreaks Posing Serious Risks

Six outbreaks of measles (defined as three or more linked cases) have been reported as of February 21 (the latest information available from the CDC). This includes three outbreaks in New York. Other states with confirmed cases include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) also issued a “Health Advisory” for mumps after an outbreak was confirmed at Temple University in Philadelphia.

- Measles and mumps are highly contagious infectious diseases.
- **All healthcare workers should maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in persons with a febrile rash** illness, especially in those with no history of measles vaccination.
- **Area healthcare providers should consider mumps in patients presenting with parotitis.** Providers evaluating suspected mumps cases should:
  - Use droplet precautions
  - Collect a buccal swab, urine, and serum for mumps testing
  - Advise patients to self-isolate for five days
- MMR vaccine is the best protection against measles and mumps infection.
- There are instances where a booster may be necessary, like for college students or those traveling abroad. Encourage patients to check with their healthcare provider.
- For additional information, resources, and tools visit the CDC’s websites for [measles](#) or [mumps](#).
- Please report possible cases by calling DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258) or your local health department.