

MnVFC Announcement

Date: July 29, 2024

To: MnVFC Providers

From: MnVFC Program

Re: Measles Update for MnVFC Providers

Please route to:

- Clinical supervisor
- Medical director
- Clinic manager
- Clinic staff
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine staff

Cases of measles have been identified in three unrelated children who reside respectively in Hennepin, Anoka, and Ramsey counties. None of the children have history of MMR vaccination. Based on current information, these cases are not directly linked to each other, so there is concern for possible spread of measles in the community. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) continues to investigate links among these cases and recent cases in June.

Now is a crucial time to vaccinate persons who need MMR vaccine or are overdue by assessing MMR vaccination status of patients at every visit and vaccinating susceptible persons. In 2023, only 78.7% of 2-year-olds in Minnesota received one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months compared to 83.8% in 2019 (pre-pandemic).

The current measles situation is an opportunity to restart conversations with patients about the importance of vaccination. Many parents just need reassurance that the MMR vaccine is safe and will protect their child. The following resources provide communication strategies and tips for effectively addressing questions from patients [CDC: Conversations: Talking to Parents about Vaccines Materials \(www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html).

As a reminder, if you are billing Medicaid for the admin fee, you may also bill for vaccine counseling as you have these conversations. For more information, visit [DHS: Immunizations and Vaccinations \(www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_136660#mnvfc\)](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_136660#mnvfc).

For parents or patients who decline MMR for themselves or their children, counsel them that unvaccinated persons could be excluded from child care, school, or work for 21 days or longer if exposed to measles.

MDH can provide support with texting for patients in need of MMR through a new, free initiative. Clinics that partner with MDH to text reminder/recall notices can include information to help clients obtain a vaccination appointment. The text messages are also available in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. For more information, contact health.miictexting@state.mn.us.

Lastly, be on high alert for measles in patients presenting with rash, fever, and cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis; especially among persons with recent international travel or contact with persons recently returning from international travel. Report suspected and confirmed cases to MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free).

MnVFC Program
651-201-5522 or 1-800-657-3970
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