MEASLES: Important considerations

- In 2019, outbreaks of measles have occurred across the United States, with over 1,000 cases reported from 30 states.
- In 2018, Europe experienced a large measles outbreak with over 69,000 cases reported.
- The last case of measles reported in Montana was in 1990.

WHO'S AT RISK
- Babies who are too young for vaccine (<12 months)
- Immunocompromised
- Pregnant women
- Unvaccinated

INCUBATION
- Average: 14 days (range 7-21 days)

SYMPTOMS
- High fever (up to 104°F)
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash (spreads from head to toe)
- Koplik spots (sometimes)

Measles complications can include: pneumonia, encephalitis, and/or death

How infectious is measles? One person can infect 12-18 susceptible people

RISK FACTORS
- Travel to a place where measles is endemic
- Contact with someone who has measles
- Not receiving a measles vaccine (MMR)
- Visitors from areas where measles is occurring

SUSPECT
- Evaluate signs and symptoms and risk factors to determine if measles is high on the suspicion list.

REPORT
- Measles is immediately reportable to local public health. Reporting should not wait until lab results are available. If you suspect measles, report it ASAP.

CONFIRM
- A diagnosis of measles is confirmed by prompt laboratory testing. The gold standard is PCR and can be performed as soon as possible following rash onset. Blood tests for IgM and IgG antibody production may also be helpful.

PREVENT
- The measles vaccine (MMR) is extremely effective against preventing the disease in those who are >12 months of age. Two doses of MMR are 97% effective.

For more information, contact your local health department