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Maine Immunization Program
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To: Maine Immunization Providers

From: Maine Immunization Program

Subject: Measles

Date: February 12, 2015

With measles in the news and outbreaks continuing in a number of states, the Maine Immunization Program would like to encourage healthcare providers to be vigilant about measles. Most importantly, ensure all patients are up to date on measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. One dose of MMR vaccine is approximately 93% effective at preventing measles; two doses are approximately 97% effective. Almost everyone who does not respond to the measles component of the first dose of MMR vaccine at age 12 months or older will respond to the second dose.

If you, like MIP, are receiving questions about measles vaccination, the following guidance may prove helpful:

Children

CDC recommends routine childhood immunization for MMR vaccine starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age or at least 28 days following the first dose.

Students at post-high school educational institutions

Students at post-high school educational institutions without evidence of measles immunity need two doses of MMR vaccine, with the second dose administered no earlier than 28 days after the first dose.

Adults

People who are born during or after 1957 who do not have evidence of immunity against measles should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine.

International travelers

People 6 months of age or older who will be traveling internationally should be protected against measles. Before travelling internationally,

- Infants 6 through 11 months of age should receive one dose of MMR vaccine
- Children 12 months of age or older should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine (the first dose of MMR vaccine should be administered at age 12 months or older; the second dose no earlier than 28 days after the first dose)
- Teenagers and adults born during or after 1957 without evidence of immunity against measles should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine, with the second dose administered no earlier than 28 days after the first dose

Healthcare Personnel

For healthcare personnel (HCP) born in 1957 or later without serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination, give 2 doses of MMR, 4 weeks apart. Although birth before 1957 generally is considered acceptable evidence of measles, mumps, and rubella immunity, 2 doses of MMR vaccine should be considered for unvaccinated HCP born before 1957 who do not have laboratory evidence of disease or immunity to measles and/or mumps. One dose of MMR vaccine should be considered for HCP with no laboratory evidence of disease or immunity to rubella. For these same HCP who do not have evidence of immunity, 2 doses of MMR vaccine are recommended during an outbreak of measles or mumps and 1 dose during an outbreak of rubella.

With measles in the news, now is an excellent time to utilize your reminder/recall systems to reach out to patients who may have missed a dose or previously opted out of the MMR vaccine.

If you have any questions regarding the MMR vaccine, please call the Maine Immunization Program at: Phone (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775, Email: ImmunizeME.DHHS@Maine.gov.

Sincerely,

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