

# GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 37  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
(509) 754-6060



# HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 W. Ivy Avenue  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 766-7960

April 8, 2008

To Healthcare Partners in Grant County:

Potential measles exposures at SeaTac and Portland Airports have been identified; please see the attached Alert from the Washington State Department of Health for more details. The infected passenger was an unvaccinated individual who developed a rash on March 28.

We are encouraging increased surveillance for measles and are encouraging the vaccination of susceptible individuals (with the MMR vaccine) that you may see in your practice.

Flight information for March 26, 2008:

- Northwest Airlines Flight #0033 from Amsterdam to Seattle, Estimated arrival time was 3:25 pm.
- Horizon Airlines Flight #2243 from Seattle to Portland, departing at 5 pm.
- Measles exposure could have occurred on the concourse for Alaska and Horizon flights on March 26<sup>th</sup> between 3:25 pm and 7:00 pm.

Flight information for March 29, 2008:

- Northwest Airlines Flight #0092, Portland to Amsterdam.

Measles prodrome symptoms or rash illness in any person on that flight or in a person present in the Alaska and Horizon concourse between 3:25 pm and 7:00 pm on March 26<sup>th</sup> should be considered as possible measles.

At this time, there are no cases in Grant County, and no Grant County residents have been identified as close contacts.

**For purposes of surveillance and infection control:**

- **We ask that you contact us immediately in the event of clinical suspicion of measles, at 766-7960, or 509-398-2083 (after hours).**

- **Grant County Health District will refer any patients who may contact us to healthcare providers ONLY after contacting the Healthcare provider.**

**For any patients presenting with measles-like rash:**

- **Sequester the patient in an area where they can not infect others;**
- **Airborne precautions should be observed (N95 mask for staff; surgical mask for any patient who is not in a negative pressure room);**
- **Only staff immune to measles (proof of vaccine, disease, date of birth after 1957, or positive serology) should provide care for such patients;**
- **Test for measles IgM if clinical suspicion of measles;**
- **It is suggested that a sign be posted: IF YOUR CHILD HAS RASH CHECK WITH THE CLERK BEFORE SEATING.**
- **Vaccination with MMR vaccine can prevent disease in a susceptible contact if given within 72 hours.**

If you are unable to see a patient due to possibility of exposure to measles and inability to arrange for separate area in the clinic (where the patient can wait before seeing doctor, and where nobody else will be exposed) please notify the Health District at 766-7960, and we will assist in arranging for a blood draw.

Most rashes occur by 21 days after exposure so it could be 3 weeks before any first case would demonstrate itself.

More information is available in the following resources:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/guidelines/measles.htm>

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/meas.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/meas.pdf)

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl\\_isolation\\_airborne.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_isolation_airborne.html)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.