



Outbreak Alert Notice: Confirmed measles in Dadaab, Kenya
March 21, 2016

Dear State Refugee Health Coordinator:

On Monday, March 21, 2016, CDC was notified of 3 cases of measles among refugees who recently arrived to Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Health authorities are investigating the cases and implementing outbreak response measures. No cases of measles have been reported in refugees in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in Dadaab or in the IOM Nairobi Transit Center.

As a part of the Vaccination Program for U.S.-bound refugees, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) routinely administers 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to all non-pregnant, immunocompetent U.S.-bound refugees age 12 months and older, born in 1957 or later. The first dose is given at the health assessment and the second dose is administered at least 28 days after the first dose. In response to the current outbreak, IOM will also vaccinate U.S.-bound infants 6-11 months of age who are resettling from Dadaab with one dose of MMR vaccine. If the children remain in Kenya until at least 12 months of age, they will be revaccinated with MMR as per the routine USRAP schedule.

During the outbreak, all refugees from Dadaab Refugee Camp scheduled to depart from Kenya for the United States will have received MMR vaccine (1 dose for children 6 – 11 months, 2 doses for refugees age 12 months and older, born in 1957 or later), unless contraindicated. Vaccination will be documented on the DS-3025 Form, and captured electronically in EDN. Most refugees will have received vaccination at least 4 weeks before departure. However, for any refugees who may have received a dose of MMR less than 4 weeks before departure, IOM will clearly document in the DS-3025 remarks that in the setting of a measles outbreak, the dose MMR was given <4 weeks before departure.

Enhanced pre-departure surveillance in Dadaab and the Nairobi transit center has been implemented, and individuals with signs and/or symptoms consistent with measles will be immediately isolated and evaluated, regardless of their vaccination status. Refugees with signs and/or symptoms of measles, or their known contacts, will not be permitted to travel to the US until their illness resolves or the incubation period for measles has passed. Measles spreads from person to person by direct contact or through the air from an infected person's cough or sneeze. Additional information on measles is available at www.cdc.gov/measles.

CDC, in partnership with in-country and international partners, will continue to monitor the situation in Kenya and will follow up with additional information and recommendations, if necessary.

Sincerely,

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