

# THE ADVISOR

MONTHLY COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATOR

## MEASLES: SHOULD HEALTHCARE WORKERS BE CONCERNED?

Until recent years the risk of being exposed to measles was not the first illnesses to come to mind when considering the risk of disease transmission from patients to healthcare workers. Even now there are reported outbreaks in many states of both measles and mumps. One can no longer be confident that during the delivery of healthcare they will not be exposed to one of these childhood illnesses even if your practice is not pediatrics or primary care.

The CDC defines healthcare workers as:

“all paid and unpaid persons working in health-care settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or to infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or contaminated air. HCP might include (but are not limited to) physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the health-care facility, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administrative, billing, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from HCP and patients.”

Measles is highly contagious. In fact, 90 to 99% of individuals who are not immune will become infected once exposed. Individuals are considered contagious from four days prior to outbreak of a rash to four days after the rash has appeared. The virus is spread by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne transmission. The measles virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after the patient has left the area.

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## MEASLES: SHOULD HEALTHCARE WORKERS BE CONCERNED?

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Signs and symptoms of the illness appear anywhere from 10 to 14 days after exposure and include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Conjunctivitis
- Koplik's spots which are tiny white spots with bluish white centers located inside the mouth on the inside of the cheeks
- Rash, beginning on the face and spreading, often described as large, flat blotches that overlap

Documented complications include pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infections and encephalitis. Children under age five, adults 20 years and older, pregnant women and those with a weakened immune system are at higher risk for more severe illness and complications.

### SCENARIO

A college student is home on spring break and comes to the practice because he feels like he has the flu. Alternatively, even though he doesn't feel well, this is the only time he can get his teeth cleaned. It is later determined that he has the measles.

### QUESTION

How do you handle this situation?

It is best for healthcare workers with proof of immunity to provide care to the suspect patient. Airborne precautions should be taken. Provide the patient with a mask and isolation in a negative air-flow room as soon as possible. Workers, even those considered immune, should wear appropriate respiratory protection (N-95 respirator mask or equivalent) to reduce exposure to the virus. The challenge is that most out-patient facilities do not have negative air-flow rooms on site, and they have not implemented a respiratory protection program. Each practice should perform a risk assessment to evaluate the potential exposure risks to workers and others in the practice. Then, based on the assessment, determine steps that need to be taken.

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## MEASLES: SHOULD HEALTHCARE WORKERS BE CONCERNED?

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At a minimum a practice or facility should document the immune status of workers for many communicable diseases including measles, mumps and rubella.

Accepted evidence of immunity based on CDC and ACIP recommendations is outlined in [Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations](#). They provide the following information:

- HCP born in 1957 or later can be considered immune to measles, mumps, or rubella only if they have documentation of (a) laboratory confirmation of disease or immunity or (b) appropriate vaccination against measles, mumps, and rubella.
- Individuals born before 1957 are generally considered immune to measles, mumps, and rubella. For these individuals, if there is not laboratory evidence of disease or immunity to measles then 2 doses of MMR vaccine should be considered.

Even though exposure to measles may be considered a low risk for your work environment, do not discount the possibility of a severe illness for those who are not immune and exposed. In some scenarios, a worker may be excluded from work from day 5 through day 21 after exposure which could have an impact on the ability to deliver patient care. If you don't have a plan, now is the time to determine how to handle a potential exposure. Start the process of documenting workers immunity for the good of your practice and your patients.

For further reading:

[Immunization of Health-Care Personnel](#) — Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. November 25, 2011.

[Ask the Experts — Measles, Mumps, Rubella](#) — Immunization Action Coalition — EXCELLENT resource for questions and answers about the diseases and vaccination recommendations.

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# TMC COMPLIANCE

## OSHA AND HIPAA OFFICER COMPLIANCE WEBINAR



### OSHA & HIPAA OFFICER WEBINARS

They are back! TMC now has live officer training webinars available to our TMC Clients. They provide an important component of your compliance training. To access these webinars, please [click here](#) to choose either the **OSHA Safety Officer Training** webinar or the **HIPAA Privacy/Security Officer Training** webinar. To watch a recorded version, please go to TMC Client Portal and watch at a time that is convenient for you.

### COMPLIANCE

OSHA and HIPAA rules come from federal and state.  
Worker and patient safety make your practice great.

Learning the rules may feel like a chore  
but they save when auditors come to the door.

It's hard to prove you've learned your stuff  
So, keep the files current, to earn their trust.

Of dirt and blood there should be no detection.  
Proper instrument cleaning prevents infection.

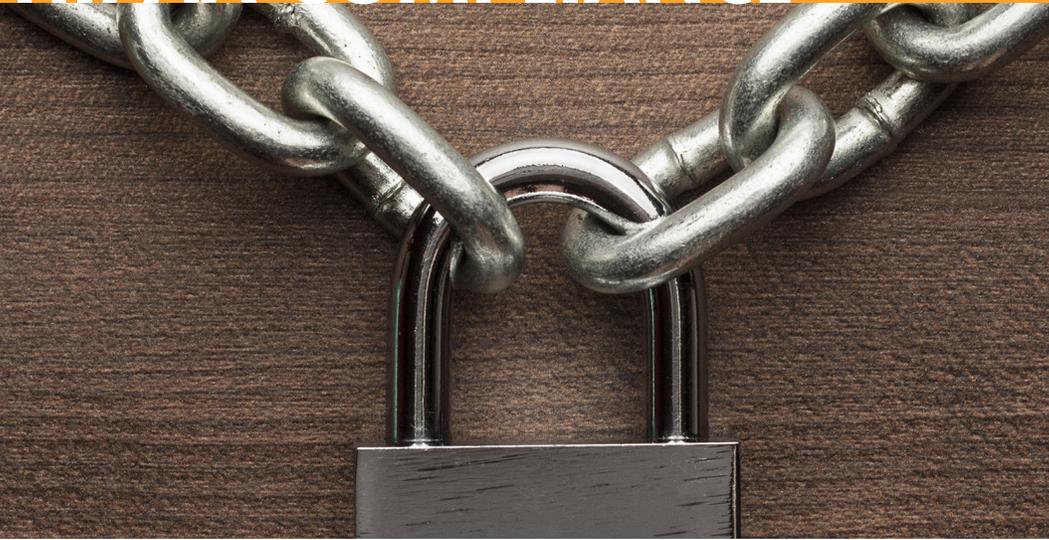
If you need help with regulatory compliance  
call TMC to create an alliance.

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# TMC HIPAA COMPLIANCE



## PROTECT YOURSELF

Today's data aggregators have all sorts of information on us including family member names, address, and household income. Additionally, based on our online habits, they have made assumptions on habits, hobbies, and political affiliation.

One way that fraudsters try to make money off stolen data is to craft targeted phishing emails. The more people that are tricked by the fake emails, the more money the bad guys make. With a big data repository (containing names, addresses, demographics, habits, hobbies) being stolen on the regular basis, fraudsters can draft very compelling emails.

Dear Mrs. Incredible,

Congratulations on the first birthday of your son Jack-Jack. We hear he is an amazing young boy. Management here at Metroville Photo would like to offer you a free photo shoot along with \$500 credit toward prints (total value \$625). Hurry as the offer ends soon! Click here to register ([www.freepicture4you.com](http://www.freepicture4you.com)).

PS: Bring along Violet, Dash, and Mr. Incredible too for a family shoot!



Don't assume that just because the email contains personal information about you, that the letter is legitimate or safe.

The above content was brought to you by North Wonders ([www.NorthWonders.com](http://www.NorthWonders.com)). They offer security awareness programs that significantly reduce the risk of ransomware, phishing, and compromised bank credentials – helping protect clinical data, patient personal information and your business assets.

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# TMC OSHA COMPLIANCE

## WHAT MATERIALS NEED A SAFETY DATA SHEET?

All employers are required to have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available in the workplace where it can be accessed easily by an employee for any hazardous chemical employees can potentially be exposed to, due to a spill, leak or other accident. A hazardous chemical is defined as any chemical which is classified as a physical hazard or a health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, or gas that can spontaneously ignite or ignite when exposed to air, or a hazard not otherwise classified.

The following categories of product are exempt by OSHA from needing an SDS.

- Tobacco or tobacco products
- Wood or wood products — Wood or wood products which have been treated with a hazardous chemical and wood which may be subsequently sawed or cut, generating dust, are not exempt.
- Articles — An article is a manufactured item other than a fluid or particle: (i) which is formed to a specific shape or design during manufacture; (ii) which has end use function(s) dependent in whole or in part upon its shape or design during end use; and (iii) which under normal conditions of use does not release more than very small quantities, e.g., minute or trace amounts of a hazardous chemical, and does not pose a physical hazard or health risk to employees. Examples of exempt articles include toner or inkjet cartridges, syringes, and a dental burr.
- Food or alcoholic beverages which are sold, used, or prepared in a retail establishment, and foods intended for personal consumption by employees while in the workplace
- Any drug, as that term is defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act when it is in solid, final form for direct administration to the patient (e.g., tablets or pills); drugs which are packaged by the chemical manufacturer for sale to consumers in a retail establishment (e.g., over-the-counter drugs); and drugs intended for personal consumption by employees while in the workplace (e.g., first aid supplies). — A pill that is crushed and mixed in something for a child in the office is not therefore exempt.
- Cosmetics which are packaged for sale to consumers in a retail establishment, and cosmetics intended for personal consumption by employees while in the workplace
- Any consumer product used in the workplace for the purpose intended by the manufacturer for the same time and frequency as a normal consumer.  
— For example, the polish you use to dust the waiting room once a week would be exempt but the ammonia you use to treat a gluteraldehyde spill would not be exempt nor would the bleach you use for dental procedures or even to do more laundry than a normal consumer.
- Nuisance particulates where the chemical manufacturer or importer can establish that they do not pose any physical or health hazard
- Ionizing and nonionizing radiation
- Biological hazards — For example, blood, viruses, bacteria.

Make sure all your employees know how to access an SDS in an emergency.

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# COMPLIANCE

eMANUAL: EVERYWHERE YOU ARE

total medical compliance

## TMC ELECTRONIC COMPLIANCE MANUAL

Lunch and Learn! Complete your eManual for TMC eManual clients

If you've purchased the TMC electronic manual but haven't gotten it completed yet, now is your chance! It's easy once you get started. The challenge is getting started.

Grab your lunch and join Karen Gregory as she gets you started on the completion of the OSHA and/or HIPAA electronic compliance manuals. Projected time is 1 hour. There will be no continuing education credit provided.

May 14, 2019 12:00 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

June 2019 on Jun 25, 2019 12:00 PM EDT

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# TMC COMPLIANCE

## GETTING TO KNOW TMC EMPLOYEES



This month we would like to introduce TMC Consultant S'Elaina Wyatt-Lefevre. S'Elaina was dedicated to her patients during her 15 years as a dental hygienist, and that clinical experience has prepared her to assist practices with OSHA and HIPAA compliance. She has facilitated learning for dental offices all over NC as an imaging software instructor and you will appreciate S'Elaina's excellent presentation skills and calm demeanor. S'Elaina has a heart for serving and has done international missions in Haiti. She enjoys time with her husband, daughter, and friends.

1. What is your must-have or go-to morning beverage? [water or mint tea](#)
2. What is the most fun or unusual item you keep on your desk? [a pen with lips that talks](#)
3. What is the strangest or most fun job you've ever had? [The strangest was a women's prison.](#)
4. How far away from home is the farthest away you've ever been? [Haiti](#)
5. What is your go-to item that you most often bring to potlucks? [dessert](#)
6. Where is your favorite place to listen to music? [car or office](#)
7. What is the last movie you saw in a movie theatre? [Christopher Robin](#)
8. Do you have any phobias? [snakes](#)
9. What is the most daring thing you've ever done? [zipline](#)
10. Do you collect anything? [no](#)
11. Do you or would you sing at Karaoke night? [probably](#)
12. Are you related even distantly to anyone famous? [I wish](#)
13. What is your favorite holiday? [Thanksgiving](#)
14. What was the last non-work-related thing you read? [Find Your Extraordinary by Jessica DiLullo Herrin](#)
15. Is your glass half-empty or half-full? [half full](#)

## IT'S YOUR CALL

### OSHA Situation:

What documentation is required for OSHA training, and how long should the records be kept?

### HIPAA Situation:

Does Health and Human Services have a tier for violations?

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ANSWERS](#)

[CLICK HERE TO](#)

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SIGNATURE

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Print and post newsletter in office for staff review. Each member should sign this form when completed. Keep on file as proof of training on these topics.

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