

# THE ADVISOR

MONTHLY COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATOR

## LET'S TALK MEASLES...AGAIN

The measles outbreak continues. Cases have been confirmed in 30 states. As of July 25, 2019, there have been 1,164 cases reported, which is the largest reported number of cases since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

In order to address this ongoing issue, the CDC published [additional guidance](#) in July to provide healthcare workers specific direction to prevent spread of the illness and protection when caring for patients.

Exposure to measles is defined as time spent without proper respiratory protection in these circumstances:

- In the same air space as an infected patient
- In the same air space where a measles patient left within the prior 2 hours

The CDC outlines the baseline for protection in a healthcare setting:

- Ensure healthcare providers (HCP) have presumptive evidence of immunity to measles.
- Quickly identify and isolate patients with known or suspected measles.
- Adhere to Standard and Airborne Precautions for patients with known or suspected measles.
- Routinely promote and facilitate respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Appropriately manage exposed and ill HCP

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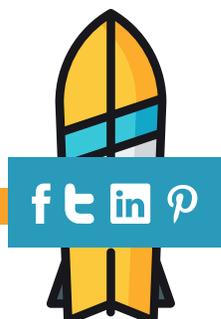
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HIPAA OSHA INFECTION CONTROL BUSINESS ASSOCIATES



# TMC INFECTION CONTROL

## LET'S TALK MEASLES....AGAIN

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What is Presumptive Evidence of Measles Immunity for the HCP?

- Written documentation of vaccination with 2 doses of measles virus-containing vaccine (the first dose administered at age  $\geq 12$  months; the second dose no earlier than 28 days after the first dose); OR
- Laboratory evidence of immunity (measles immunoglobulin G [IgG] in serum; equivocal results are considered negative); OR
- Laboratory confirmation of disease; OR
- Birth before 1957.

The CDC also recommends considering vaccinating HCP born before 1957 who do not have other evidence of immunity to measles.

While these measures create a baseline of protection there are additional measures which should be implemented whenever possible.

Appointment scheduling – When scheduling by phone for a person who may be infected, provide specific instructions on how to enter the practice. The goal is to quickly provide a facemask for the patient and move them immediately into an exam room.

Arrival at the practice – Any person with an indication of measles infection should be provided a mask and promptly placed in a room with the door closed. Signs of the illness include high fever, dry cough, runny nose, sore throat, conjunctivitis and Koplik's spots. Only HCP who have known immunity to measles should be involved the care of this patient. These workers should also use respiratory protection that

is at least as protective as a fit-tested N95 respirator. Many outpatient facilities have not implemented this level of respiratory protection and should perform a risk analysis of the potential for contact with measles patients and the need to implement a respiratory protection program.

Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette is another effective measure to reduce the spread of this illness. Each facility should have a strong program in place and educate patients on the process. Elements of an effective program include:

- Visuals – Signs or posters in the [appropriate language](#) at the facility entrance and other common areas.
- Hand hygiene supplies – Make these supplies, along with tissues, available, especially in waiting areas.
- Personal Protective Equipment – Masks should be readily available.

Once the patient visit has ended, the exam room should remain closed for a period of two hours to ensure adequate air exchange has occurred.

A critical key to reducing the spread of measles is of course, individual vaccination. For those in healthcare, education is imperative to ensure the proper message is sent about the safety and need for appropriate prevention measures. Know the immune status of your workers and patients! Educate when necessary to create a safer patient and work environment!

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# TMC HIPAA COMPLIANCE



## THIRD PARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

Managing third party service providers, or vendors, is an ongoing legal and contractual obligation for all businesses. While there is no “one size fits all” risk management program, there are a lot of great checklists and recommendations available. Checking a few resources before signing a new vendor service agreement and setting up a Google Alert or two can potentially help you avoid picking a bad apple.

Credentials, exclusions, and breaches:

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services - Office of Inspector General’s Exclusions Database (<https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov>)
- U.S. Department of State Terrorist Exclusion List (<https://www.state.gov/terrorist-exclusion-list>)
- United States General Services Administration (GSA) (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/searchRecords/search.jsf>) check this especially if you have a Medicare/Medicaid or other federal contract)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office for Civil Rights Breach Portal or “Wall of Shame” ([https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/breach/breach\\_report.jsf](https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/breach/breach_report.jsf))
- Perform a general internet search using the vendor’s name/company name + the following words (or other words related to its service) to ensure credibility:
  - Breach
  - Complaints
  - Lawsuit
- Ensure the vendor’s contract has assurances that their compliance controls are adequate for HIPAA, OSHA, Medicare & Medicaid, as applicable.
- Ask about their general and/or professional liability insurance coverage.

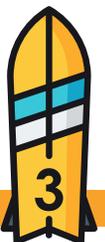
Ask the vendor if they perform background checks on their employees. If the vendor will provide software or other technology services, consider asking for the following:

- A copy of their most recent security audit (e.g. a SOC 2 Type 2) performed by a third-party auditor,
- The location(s) where data will be stored,
- Frequency of data back-up.

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# TMC HIPAA COMPLIANCE

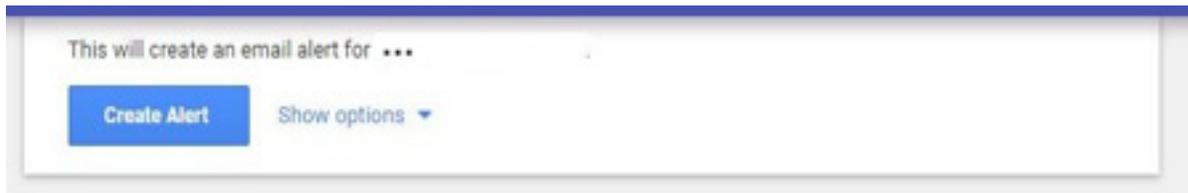
## THIRD PARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

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If the vendor is a Business Associate and the Business Associate Agreement (separate from the service agreement) is not your template, be sure it has the appropriate provisions before signing it. It is best practice to review these items on an annual basis for all third-party service providers even if it is not a business associate, but especially as part of the required HIPAA risk assessment.

To set up a Google Alert:

1. Go to [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts)
2. In the box at the top, enter a topic, person, or company you want to follow. A new window will appear.
3. Before you click **Create Alert**, you select settings. Click **Show options** to select frequency of alerts, source, language, region and where you want to receive the alerts.



4. After you've set your options, click **Create Alert**. You will get emails whenever Google finds matching search results.

## X-TRA! X-TRA! INVISIBLE RAYS REVEAL BONES!

Who invented X-rays? Modern X-ray technology, like many other scientific breakthroughs, came from the work of several different people working with radioactive materials in the late 1890s.

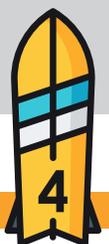
Marie Curie is well-known and rightfully honored for her groundbreaking work with radioactive materials. She discovered polonium and radium in 1898. Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, a Professor at Wuerzburg University in Germany, working with cathode rays in his laboratory in 1895, discovered that electricity could be used to produce a fluorescent ray that could pass through heavy paper and leave an image behind. In 1896, French scientist Henri Becquerel discovered natural radioactivity while investigating the properties of fluorescent minerals. He utilized photographic plates to record this fluorescence.

These parallel discoveries, and the work of countless unknown technicians and scientists led to the common use of x-rays in medicine. As we know today, radiation can be beneficial as well as harmful to the human body and many early pioneers in the field paid a heavy price for what we take for granted. Today, the science of radiation protection, or "health physics" provides health care providers and patients ongoing guidance in the safe and effective use of this powerful tool.

For further reading on this history: <https://www.nde-ed.org/EducationResources/CommunityCollege/Radiography/Introduction/history.htm>

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# TMC WEBINARS



## CDC UPDATE!!! NEW EMPLOYEE TB SCREENING

The CDC published updated guidelines on TB screening for new healthcare workers in May 2019.

The recommendations still include the two-step skin test, but now provide additional guidance on screening measures and treatment of latent TB for healthcare workers.

Join Karen Gregory as she reviews the CDC guidance in this 30-minute webinar. We are offering it two times on the same day.

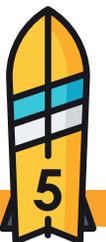
**Date:** September 12, 2019

**Time:** 8:30am – 9:00am EST  
12:00pm – 12:30pm EST

**REGISTER**

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# TMC COMPLIANCE

## GETTING TO KNOW TMC EMPLOYEES



This month we would like to introduce you to our Marketing Director, Nichole Pope. Nichole joined Total Medical Compliance in 2011 and graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science.

1. What is your must-have or go-to morning beverage? [Coffee or hot lemon water with fresh ginger root](#)
2. What is the most fun or unusual item you keep on your desk? [A small plastic toy rat my son gave me](#)
3. What is the strangest or most fun job you've ever had? [Weed inspector](#)
4. How far away from home is the farthest away you've ever been? [The Caribbean in Central America](#)
5. What is your go-to item that you most often bring to potlucks? [Veggie tray](#)
6. Where is your favorite place to listen to music? [Living room and kitchen](#)
7. What is the last movie you saw in a movie theatre? [Yesterday](#)
8. Do you have any phobias? [Heights](#)
9. What is the most daring thing you've ever done? [Sky dive](#)
10. Do you collect anything? [No](#)
11. Do you (or would you) sing at Karaoke night? [I have](#)
12. Are you related (even distantly) to anyone famous? [No](#)
13. What is your favorite holiday? [Halloween!](#)
14. What was the last non-work-related thing you read? [Woman code](#)
15. Is your glass half-empty or half-full? [Half-full](#)

## IT'S YOUR CALL

### OSHA Situation:

What are the protection levels for face masks?

### HIPAA Situation:

What is the best way to identify risks for providers in our office who are allowed to receive, transmit, use or store patient health information on their mobile device?

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ANSWERS](#)

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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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