



Department of Health

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The NYS Department of Health and Board for Professional Medical Conduct Remind Physicians of Communicable Disease/Measles Reporting Requirements

With the measles outbreaks currently impacting Rockland, Kings, Orange and Westchester Counties, physicians are being reminded of their responsibilities regarding the reporting of communicable diseases, including measles. Specifically, under the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR § 2.10), it is mandatory to report suspected or confirmed cases of measles.

While confirmed or suspected cases of communicable diseases are required to be reported no later than 24 hours from the time the case is first seen by the physician, certain communicable diseases, such as measles, require prompt attention and should be reported by phone immediately to the local health department where the patient resides. Said phone report is to be followed by submission of the confidential case report form (DOH-389) to the applicable local health Department, or in New York City, report form PD-16 submitted to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

For further information regarding this measles outbreak and the reporting of communicable diseases, you may contact the NYS Health Department Measles Information Line at (888) 364-4837, your local health department, or in New York City, call (866) NYC-DOH1.

Penalties for Not Complying with Reporting Requirements Under NYS Sanitary Code

The New York State Department of Health, including the Board for Professional Medical Conduct, requires physicians to comply with laws governing the practice of medicine, including filing reports mandated by law. Accordingly, physicians who are required to report suspected or confirmed measles cases pursuant to 10 NYCRR § 2.10, and willfully fail to do so, may be referred to the Board for Professional Medical Conduct for disciplinary action, pursuant to the provisions of Public Health Law and State Education Law.

Please also note that Section 230 of NYS Public Health Law requires physicians to report suspected misconduct on the part of other physicians to the Board, specifically to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC). Therefore, physicians who fail to report another physician's noncompliance with the measles reporting requirements, as set forth in New York State Sanitary Code, could also be subject to misconduct charges and disciplinary action by the Board.

Strict compliance with the measles reporting requirements is necessary, in order to help mitigate this public health threat, and to advance our common goal of providing the public with the highest quality healthcare.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Keith W. Servis
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Robert A. Catalano, M.D., MBA
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional
Medical Conduct

Quick Links:

NYS Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/>

NYSDOH Measles Fact Sheet: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2170/>

Department of Health, Office of Professional Medical Conduct:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/conduct/>