



1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor, Ex Officio
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health

April 17, 2019

Dear Members of the Mercaz Torah U'Tefilla:

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is working with Rabbi Eichenstein to inform the community that there may have been members and/or visitors exposed to measles on Saturday, April 13, 2019 while at the shul of the Mercaz Torah U'Tefilla between the hours of 11:30am and 3 pm.

Furthermore, a team from the BCHD and the Maryland Department of Health visited the Mercaz Torah U'Tefilla to evaluate the airflow between buildings. Based on the team's evaluation, airflow is confined to the shul. Currently, BCHD is aware of potential exposure to measles limited to Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 11:30am to 3 pm.

Individuals who may have been exposed should monitor for symptoms of measles until **Saturday, May 4, 2019.**

Measles is an acute viral respiratory illness characterized by a high fever, cough, runny nose, and/or conjunctivitis (red watery eyes). The measles virus lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. Also, measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected. A rash typically appears 2-4 days after the initial symptoms, usually starting around the hairline and face and then spreading downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet. Measles symptoms typically develop 10 to 14 days after exposure to the virus but can develop as soon as seven days or as long as 21 days after exposure. Patients are contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears.

Rabbi Eichenstein and the BCHD recommend any persons who develop symptoms of measles to call their health care provider about their symptoms before showing up in the waiting room so that the office can take measures to prevent spread to other patients. The BCHD also requests that you call the health department should symptoms develop. We will work with your health care provider to coordinate measles testing and assess for the risk of exposure among others, to best protect the community. Individuals who suspect they may have measles should stay home while they are contagious so that they do not expose others. Measles is very infectious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can remain in the air for up to 2 hours.

For additional information, please call your health care provider. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Baltimore City Health Department at 410-396-4436 or after business hours and on weekends at 410-396-3100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LD', is positioned above the printed name of the Commissioner of Health.

Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

Rabbi Eichenstein

Enc: MDH Measles Frequently Asked Questions
MDH Measles Exposure Instructions