



UNITED ORTHODOX JEWISH
CONGREGATIONS OF BALTIMORE

A Mission of Kindness

October 2018

Community of Baltimore,

The New York Department of Health has been communicating to the public regarding a measles outbreak currently impacting the Jewish community in New York. Unfortunately, there is a current outbreak in Israel as well. In light of the close ties and frequent travel between New York and Baltimore and between Israel and Baltimore, Bikur Cholim of Baltimore, the United Orthodox Jewish Congregations of Baltimore (OJC), and healthcare professionals are urging all parents and individuals to immediately call their physician in the event there is any reason to believe that their child or they may be exhibiting any signs or symptoms of measles (even if previously vaccinated).

Measles is an airborne disease caused by the measles virus and is very contagious. Measles, which typically is transmitted through contact with saliva or nasal secretions, can also be spread through coughing and sneezing of infected people. Symptoms usually develop 10–12 days after exposure to an infected person and last 7–10 days. Initial symptoms characteristically include fever, often greater than 40 °C (104.0 °F), cough, runny nose, and red eyes. There is usually an associated rash which starts on the back of the ears and, after a few hours, spreads to the head and neck and then spreads throughout the body. Symptoms of the measles virus usually last for 3 weeks and is often self-limiting, although in some individuals it can lead to serious or life-threatening complications. Please remember that the most important measure to prevent spread of this disease to our children and within the community is to stay up to date on vaccinations.

We ask the community to be diligent and responsible in this matter. Let us keep our children and community safe.