

Measles Outbreak Response for Free Clinics

Updated 2/25/19

The measles outbreak in Clark County is spreading. Free and charitable clinics need to be aware of local resources and determine how they plan to respond, help patients get tested and prevent further spread.

Janet Runbeck of the Pierce County Medical Reserve Corps (and formerly of the RotaCare Tacoma Free Clinic) has developed the following, simple steps for all free clinics:

- Instruct everyone who is unsure of their immunization status who may have been exposed to someone with measles to get tested. They should also, consistently wear a mask whenever out in public, and stay home as much as possible.
- Connect with your [local public health jurisdiction](#) and consult with the communicable disease specialist to establish a plan for your clinic.
- The Department of Health will provide nasopharyngeal and urine tests, but samples can be collected by free clinics. Please note that the test samples must be stored in a freezer if they can't be couriered right away. The public health communicable disease specialist with your local public health jurisdiction (link to contact numbers are below) can help you determine how to handle testing samples and logistics.
- Determine whether or not your clinic will be able to conduct blood titer testing. This testing can be performed locally. Some clinics already have lab partnerships established that will conduct the testing for them, others are initiating agreements with local labs and hospitals.
- Instruct patients going anywhere for testing (including coming to your clinic) to wear a mask.

Here are some additional resources:

[Local Public Health Communicable Disease Reporting Lines](#)

Centers for Disease Control – [Measles Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#)

Washington State Department of Health [2019 Measles Outbreak Information](#)