

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL PROVIDERS

MAY 13, 2019

ATTENTION PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MEASLES VACCINATIONS & TITERS

Measles outbreaks are making headlines nationwide every day, including in the regions Highmark serves. As a result, patients may be reaching out to providers like you with questions and concerns about their needs for measles vaccination and/or titers to test for immunity to measles, as well as whether these are covered under their insurance.

Here is some helpful information and resources that providers should be aware of with respect to measles.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) RECOMMENDATIONS

- Children 12 to 15 months of age should receive a dose of MMR vaccine, with a second dose at 4 to 6 years of age or at least 28 days following the first dose.
- Students at post-high-school educational institutions without evidence of measles immunity need two doses of MMR vaccine, with the second dose administered no earlier than 28 days after the first dose.
- Adults who were born during or after 1957 who do not have evidence of immunity against measles should get at least one dose of MMR vaccine.
- Health care personnel should have documented evidence of immunity against measles. Review the CDC's [Questions about Measles](#) for the definition of documented evidence of immunity against measles.

VACCINATION COVERAGE

- The MMR vaccine is part of Highmark's preventive schedule and is available to members and their covered dependents of all ages at no or little in-network out-of-pocket cost.
- Members' preventive schedules may vary from the standard preventive schedule, so confirm their preventive benefits **before** administering the vaccine.

TITER COVERAGE

- The measles titer is a diagnostic procedure; therefore, coverage for measles titers, as well as any applicable out-of-pocket costs, depends on individual members' unique benefits.
- Confirm members' benefits for diagnostic tests **before** ordering the test.



CONFIRM MEMBERS' PREVENTIVE & DIAGNOSTIC BENEFITS

Professional providers can view and confirm preventive and diagnostic benefits for their patients in real time by using the Eligibility and Benefits Inquiry function in NaviNet®.

We also encourage you to review the Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines and immunization schedules on the Provider Resource Center. Click **EDUCATION/MANUALS > Preventive Health Guidelines** to access the 2019 Preventive Health Guidelines, as well as immunization schedules for children and adults.

REVIEW THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We encourage you to review these resources from the CDC and share them with your patients:

- Information about Measles: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html>
- Information about Measles Outbreaks: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>
- Information for Parents and Caregivers: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/resources/parents-caregivers.html>

We thank you for your continued support of your patients who are our members, and for your role in safeguarding the health of the communities we serve.